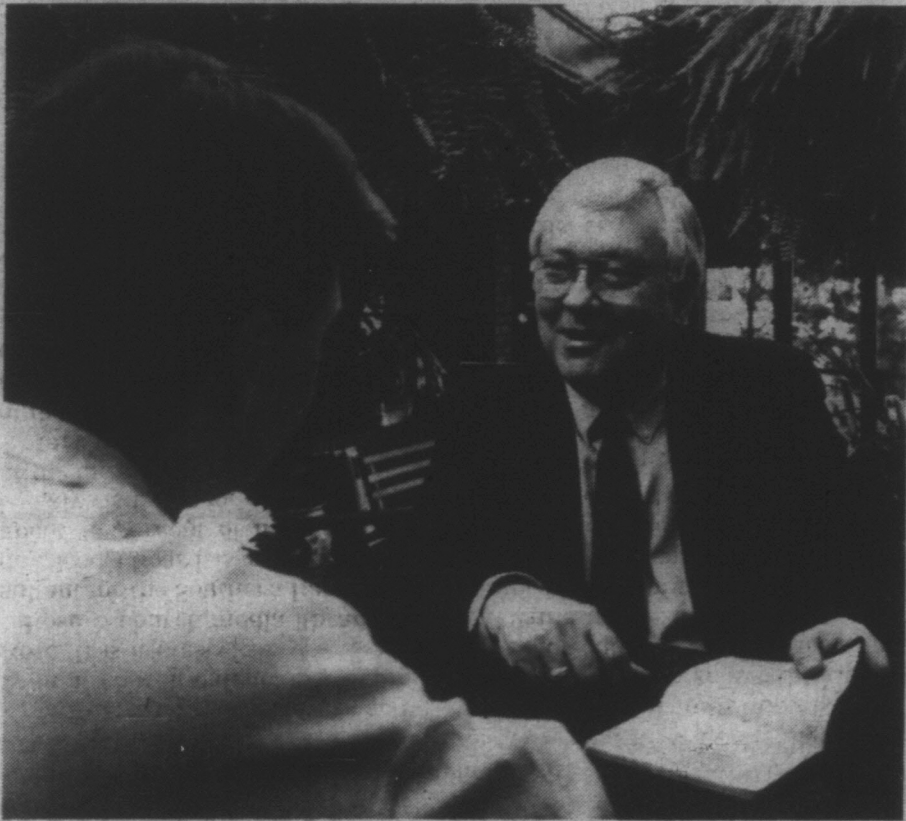


The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 24, 1987

Published Since 1877



James Rose (right) makes witnessing a lifestyle as he travels throughout the country to lead media library conferences. (Photo by Jim Veneman)

Once-a-week witnessing not James Rose's style

By Charles Willis

NASHVILLE (BP) — Personal witnessing is not a once-a-week activity on a church calendar for James Rose. It is a lifestyle.

Rose, a church media library consultant for the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board, is away from home about 70 percent of his work days. Weekly visitation for his church is out of the question.

"I try to stay open to the leadership of the Holy Spirit and let witnessing become a lifestyle," he said of his commitment. "When I was in my 30s, the Lord really dealt with me about the ministry. I became exceedingly burdened about lost (non-Christian) persons."

Rose, a layman at the time, was employed in an engineering office at Shawnee Steam Plant near Paducah, Ky. While a member of Harmony Church, Grahamville, he began to see the need for having a personal witness but lacked the confidence to act.

"I was frightened to think of door-to-door visitation or dealing one-on-one about how to be saved," he recalled.

Following a return to college for additional education, Rose became convinced God was calling him to preach. By that time, he was involved in personal witnessing at Immanuel Baptist Church in Lexington.

"I witness because I must," he said. "I witness because there is a real heaven to experience for eternity and a real hell to experience without Jesus."

"As I live day by day in airline terminals, restaurants, motels, and barber shops, I try to live the kind of life that would open the way for a verbal witness," he said. "I make an attempt to bear my witness in a way that won't be offensive, but let the Holy Spirit convince people of their need to trust the Lord and know the same forgiveness and everlasting life I've experienced."

Rose led a shoeshine man in an Albuquerque, N.M., hotel to Christ. Likewise, he has shared his faith with people in travel-related service jobs in Georgia, Texas, and South Carolina, among others. A file folder of correspondence with people he has led to Christ or continues to counsel is in his office.

Rose has used tracts that he considers particularly appropriate for the person to whom he is witnessing, and he has provided materials from local church media libraries and mailed personal Christian resources to people across the country.

"Nothing will take the place of a verbal witness," he observed, "but after some time, the use of media helps me go beyond that witness."

"The greatest joy I have ever known, outside of my own salvation experience, is when I have seen people trust the Lord," he reflected. "The greatest burden I have is for all the missed opportunities to tell others about the Lord."

Charles Willis writes for the Sunday School Board.

Bolivian Aymara Indian holds his first Bible

NEW YORK, N.Y., (ABS) — Like the loving father of the one he calls Savior, Nicolas Pinto is a carpenter by trade. And like the Son, he feels a call to teach people the truth.

Nicolas pastors a small evangelical church on the outskirts of La Paz, Bolivia's capital city. The members of his flock have few worldly goods, but they are rich in the spirit, reports the American Bible Society.

And now after years of waiting they have received what they know to be a gift from above, the first Bible ever in their own language, Aymara.

With love and tenderness Nicolas turns the pages of his new Bible, holding it like a precious jewel. "We have longed for this moment for so many years," he says, still awed by the miracle. "It is truly wonderful."

In the past those to whom he ministers, working men and women like himself, did not always get the full meaning of the Gospel message. It could only be read to them in Spanish,



a language with which they are ill at ease.

Years of arduous labor went into bringing Nicolas his first Bible, eleven of them spent on translating the Aymara Old Testament alone. Nicolas knows this. He also knows that he has the generosity of Christians in the United States to thank for helping make it possible.

Santiago Quispe knows it, too. A

neighbor of Nicolas in La Paz, he is employed in an evangelical printing shop, and in fact was one of those who worked on the new translation under Bible Society guidance. At last he is free to go into rural areas with the true Word in words his listeners can understand.

There are some 1.5 million Aymara Indians, originally from the shores of Lake Titicaca. That is why the Bible Society chose the small town of Huarina on the lake shore as the place to dedicate the new Bible and to hold a two-day Biblical congress attended by persons from more than 10 denominations and Christian organizations, together with two special guests from the national government.

The Aymara Bible joins the first-ever Bolivian Quechua Bible among recent new Bible Society translations, two more steps in the ministry of providing all people with the Word of God in their own language.



WMU — 50 years ago

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee**

JUBILEE — About 5,000 Woman's Missionary Union members turned out for WMU's 50th anniversary.

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Democracy is precious

A new American nation declared its independence from England in 1776 and made that declaration effective with its defeat of the English forces at Yorktown in 1781. It was on Sept. 17, 1787, that the democracy finally was officially formulated with the adoption of the Constitution that we now have.

The democracy that citizens of the United States enjoy is a very precious thing. At 3 p.m. on Sept. 17, the employees of the Baptist Building and others who were in the building at the time, paused to engage in a simple ceremony to note the 200th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution.

It was a significant occasion.

Southern Baptist democracy is a very precious thing, and yet at the same time it is a very delicate thing. If it is to continue to be the system by which we handle our affairs, we must guard our democratic system as if it

were our very life blood.

Indeed, for many thousands of people our democratic system may be more precious than their own life blood, for it could mean whether or not they would have a chance to hear the gospel and make a decision that would determine their salvation.

But democracy, wherever it is found, cannot help but be a delicate concept. Wherever people are trying to find their way by determining the majority opinion, there will be people among them who will try to bend that opinion to their own concepts. They either will have determined that their concepts are bound to be right because they are their concepts, or they will be determined to bend the will of the body to their own thinking in order to accomplish their own desires.

When such an effort as that begins to take place, the majority will of the

body can be subverted. The group making the bid for power can be uncaring or insensitive to the will of the majority.

This can be true particularly in the realm of religion. In this field as in no other a person or group of persons can become fixed with the idea that they are right and are so led of the Lord that they must exert whatever force it takes in order to accomplish their purposes.

As Baptists, in our democratic system, we have no other way of searching for God's will than to ask the body to pray, be attuned to God, and then vote their convictions as to what the Lord is telling them.

When that delicate democratic system is thrown out of kilter by someone or some group seeking to control the direction of the vote, the Lord's will can be missed entirely. Because

(Continued on page 8)

Guest opinions . . .

Newly discovered evidence for Baruch

By Jerry Vardaman

"... Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not..." (Jeremiah 45:5).

Baruch is an obscure person in the Old Testament. He was a scribe whose talents Jeremiah sometimes used (Jer. 32:12; 36:4-32). He seems to have been of noble family (51:59); he was the brother of Seraiah who was an official in the court of the king of Judaea named Zedekiah. Baruch was forced to suffer imprisonment with Jeremiah; and when this prophet was carried against his will to Egypt after the capture of Jerusalem by Nebuchadnezzar, Baruch was forced to accompany Jeremiah (43:6). He also had to suffer many other shameful indignities along with Jeremiah (43:4; 37:13). We know little or nothing about Baruch's last days and the type of death he suffered.

Welcome new light has just surfaced on this interesting personality of the Old Testament. The new evidence derives from the area of Jerusalem and was discovered, piecemeal, in several groups of seal impressions turned in by various dealers who bought them from various nondescript sellers. These seals could have been secreted away from legitimate excavations being carried out (like those of Y. Shiloh, who has been working on the slopes of Ophel in Jerusalem, or could have come from other sources). N. Avigad, in any case, gradually gained access to 255 seal impressions, including the one mentioning Baruch, whereas Shiloh published dozens of other seal impressions mentioning 82 names of just as important ancient personalities, such

as "Elnathan son of Bilgai," "Azariah, son of Hilkiah," etc. In any case, the large number of new seal impressions is quite valuable for its new light on the great number of new names it provides of people in the time of Jeremiah. Many of these names are not mentioned in the Old Testament and were not otherwise known previously. Shiloh has discovered likewise some Arabian names also in ancient Jerusalem (see *Pal. Explor. Quarterly*, Jan.-June 1987, pp. 9-18).

Baruch is not the only biblical person mentioned in this new material. "Jerahmeel" (see below) is mentioned as well. Baruch, however, is called "Berekyahu son of Neriyahu the Scribe," and, as such, he can be no other person than the contemporary of Jeremiah named "Baruch, the son of Neriah," in our King James Version. The archives containing these seal impressions give evidence of being destroyed by fire, and when one studies this evidence the words in Jeremiah have new application: "Seekest thou great things for thyself? Seek them not." The fire shows at least one of the ways this "evil" befell the city of Jerusalem in Jeremiah's days. Still other people were carried off to captivity, as Baruch himself was in time. Some others were put to death by the sword. Besides Baruch, as mentioned, Jerahmeel (cf. Jer. 36:26), the son of the king (named Jehoiakim) who arrested Jeremiah and Baruch, after Jehoiakim had burned the roll of the prophecies of Jeremiah, is also mentioned in the collection of seal impressions just now released. (This expression, "son of the

king," could be honorific, designating a certain office, and not literally meant.)

Baruch is now mentioned in a seal impression from the city of Jerusalem! This is a remarkable find! The God of the Bible is a God who deals with specific places and specific times, but as this seal impression reminds us again, he deals with specific people as well. In years past we have witnessed many discoveries of archaeological nature which have mentioned various kings who are referred to in the pages of the Old Testament. In this newly discovered seal we have mention of an obscure personality just as most of us are. Our faith is not reserved for the elite nor founded in myth. Our faith is founded in a God who dealt historically and individually with the obscure lives of people in the past; and we are reminded again that he spans eternity and deals with us individually today as well, as obscure as we might likewise be. The seal impression which Baruch used to sign his name to a document, now destroyed, is a very small and insignificant thing, and the original seal is now lost. But this seal impression takes on great value when it helps us to establish again the accuracy of God's message through his prophets in time past as well as today.

This foregoing assessment of the value of these welcome new seal impressions mentioning "Baruch" and "Jerahmeel" seems to us to be as much as can be safely said concerning this new discovery. It should be mentioned that a California scholar (Richard

Friedman, University of California, San Diego) appears to us to exceed the evidence when he asserts in news releases issued late last year that this Baruch seal demonstrates that Baruch wrote Deuteronomy, Joshua, Judges and II Chronicles, I and II Kings, as well as Jeremiah. To us, this seems to overstate what is clear in the new discovery. To be sure, the discovery is a complicated one and was made more complicated when Orthodox Jews forced Shiloh's excavations to cease just when he was on the verge of discovering more of those bullae, perhaps, than he was able to report, thus possibly clandestine digging turned up more?

For more information on this newly found archives, the reader is referred to N. Avigad, *Hebrew Bullae from the Time of Jeremiah; Remnants of a Burnt Archives*, Jerusalem: Israel

Exploration Society, 1986. See also for a popular presentation, H. Shanks, *Biblical Archaeology Review*, in the Sept.-Oct. 1987, Vol. 13, No. 5, "Jeremiah's Scribe and Confidant Speaks from a Hoard of Clay Bullae," pp. 58-65; see also, Y. Shiloh, Qedem, Vol. 19, Excavations at the City of David I, 1978-1982. Jerusalem: Hebrew University, 1984, pp. 19-20, "Stratum G, Group of Bullae." See also, N. Avigad, "Baruch the Scribe and Jerahmeel the King's son," *Israel Exploration Journal* 28 (1978), pp. 54-56.

To close this brief report by showing our readers what these seals mentioning Baruch and Jerahmeel look like:

Jerry Vardaman is a professor in the Cobb Institute of Archaeology at Mississippi State University.



(="For Baruch son of Neriah, the Scribe")

BARUCH SEAL IMPRESSION
Drawing #1
(by the author)



= לירחמאל
בן המלך
(="For Jerahmeel, son of the king")

JERAHMEEL SEAL IMPRESSION
Drawing #2
(by the author)

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 111 (ISSN-0005-5778) NUMBER 32
Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

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Pastors' Conference

"Fire in the Pulpit, Fervor in the Pew"

The 1987 Mississippi Baptist Pastors' Conference will take place at First Church, Jackson, Nov. 9 with the theme "Fire in the Pulpit — Fervor in the Pew."

The two sessions of the conference will begin at 9:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.

Four Mississippi Baptist pastors representing four geographical regions and two preachers from outside the state will be preaching.

Mississippi Baptist pastors on the program are Kara Blackard, pastor of Wheeler Grove Church, Corinth; Gary Berry, pastor of First Church, McComb; Ed Gandy, pastor of First Church, Kosciusko; and Davis Odom, pastor of Crossgates Church, Brandon.

Also included on the program are James Merritt, pastor of First Church, Snellville, Ga., who is a former pastor of Highland Church, Laurel; and James Draper, pastor of First Church, Euless, Tex., a former president of the Southern Baptist Convention. He will bring the closing message.

Music leadership is being provided by Larry Kulke, minister of music at Colonial Heights Church, Jackson.

President of the Pastors' Conference is Gerald Harris, pastor at Colonial Heights who explains the purpose of the conference is "to stir the hearts of Mississippi Baptist pastors toward revival and to preach the Word of God with the unction and the power of the Holy Spirit."

Other officers of the conference are



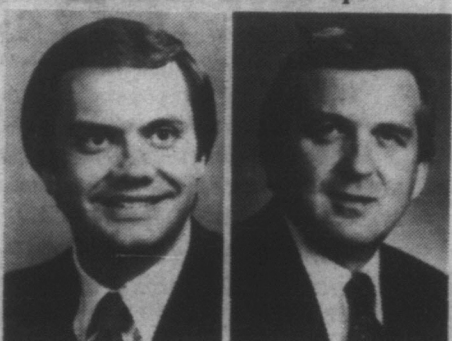
Gandy

Odom



Blackard

Draper



Merritt

Berry

Tommy Vinson, pastor of Colonial Hills Church, Southaven; and Jon Doler, pastor of First Church, Raleigh.

Alliance directors decry endorsement of Bork

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (BP) — Directors of the Southern Baptist Alliance have unanimously expressed their dismay that the Southern Baptist Convention's Public Affairs Committee endorsed Judge Robert H. Bork, "a political candidate," for the U.S. Supreme Court.

Alliance directors, in a resolution which cited SBC actions calling for non-endorsement of political candidates, asked the PAC "to withdraw its endorsement of Judge Bork."

The Public Affairs Committee, according to the Alliance directors, had taken an "unprecedented entry into a political process by a Southern Baptist agency." (Technically, the PAC is a standing committee, not an agency.)

Alliance directors also said the PAC "does not speak for all Southern Baptists on this or any other issue."

The resolution came during an organizational meeting for the fledgling SBA which was formed in April by Southern Baptists who feel that Baptist traditions and principles are threatened by trends within the SBC.

Directors also named an executive board, established task forces or board committees to deal with matters of concern and encouraged state affiliates to send women and laypersons to serve on the SBA board.

A task force on theological educa-

tion was created to suggest alternative methods in the event Southern Baptist seminaries lose their ability to conduct open inquiry into theological matters.

Another task force on church literature was asked to explore the need for new materials, document what materials are available from other sources, and to explore the production of supplemental, undated biblical material that can be used weekly by the churches.

The literature task force was created because of dissatisfaction with some recent Sunday School lessons produced by the Southern Baptist Sunday School Board. The task force leader was instructed to contact the Sunday School Board to ask if supplemental materials might be produced for churches holding moderate theological positions.

The newly named executive committee of the SBA includes the officers Henry Crouch of Charlotte, N.C.; Susan Lockwood Wright of Chicago; Henry Huff of Louisville, Ky.; Richard Groves of Winston-Salem, N.C.; and Bruce Morgan of Griffin, Ga.; plus Henry Carpenter of Cocoa, Fla.; Tom Simms of Richton, Miss.; Linda Weaver-Williams of Glen Allen, Va.; Marvin Cameron of Gatlinburg,

(Continued on page 4)

Radio-TV group adopts budget; "ACTS stabilized financially"

By Dick McCartney

FORT WORTH, Texas (BP) — Trustees of the Southern Baptist Radio and Television Commission approved an \$8.78 million operating budget for 1987-88, named four vice presidents, and heard reports of ACTS network growth during their fall meeting Sept. 14-15.

The new budget is based on "experience rather than aspiration," officials said. Jimmy R. Allen, commission president, said, "With the adoption of this budget, we can say to Southern Baptists that the ACTS network is stabilized financially."

The four new vice presidents are present commission employees. Bob Thornton was named vice president for production and programming; Ed Malone, for radio, a new title; Michael Wright, affiliate relations; and Larry Johnson, engineering and operations, also a new office.

They will join controller Jerry Stamps; Charles Roden, vice president of support services; and Richard McCartney, executive vice president, to form the executive management group for the RTVC.

The adopted budget includes \$50,000

to be added to reserves during the year, to bring total reserves to \$350,000 by October 1988.

Michael Hamlet of Spartanburg, S.C., chairman of the commission's affiliate relations committee, reported 500,000 on-line subscribers had been added to the network since the April trustee meeting. He called it "nothing short of miraculous," and reported that more than 6.9 million households now are able to receive ACTS programming.

Production and Programming Vice

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The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, September 24, 1987

Published Since 1877

Attempt to fire Baker fails with 15-15 vote

NASHVILLE (BP) — An attempt by conservatives to dismiss N. Larry Baker as executive director of the Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission failed by a 15-15 vote Sept. 15.



Baker

Joe Atchison, director of missions for Benton Baptist Association from Rogers, Ark., presented the motion to dismiss Baker immediately. The measure also would have empowered the newly elected commission chairman to appoint a search committee and name an interim director.

The call for Baker's dismissal echoed charges brought against him when commissioners voted 16-13 to hire him Jan. 15 — displeasure with his positions on abortion, capital punishment, and women in ministry, as well as displeasure with the composition of the search committee that recommended him.

During the January meeting, Baker cited four cases where he believes abortion "may be allowed as an exception" — threat to the life of the mother, rape, incest, and "perhaps in the case where traumatic and severe deformity to the fetus is involved."

He also expressed his beliefs that "God calls women to serve him in ministry as he calls men to serve him in ministry" and "capital punishment runs counter to the Christian ethic and the Christian gospel."

Several commissioners affirmed Baker and the progress the commission has made under his leadership, but they said he should be terminated

because of the views he expressed in January.

Baker is doing "meritorious work," but the effort is marred by the "inconsistency between his expressed beliefs and his action," said Rudolph Yakym, a stockbroker from South Bend, Ind., who later was elected CLC secretary. "His (Baker's) stated positions are not what I would seek in a man . . . to continue to lead us."

"I love Dr. Baker as a man. We have shared personal burdens, but those burdens are not the issue," said Fred Lackey, pastor of First Church, Athens, Ala., and the new CLC chairman. "I cannot support Dr. Baker on abortion, capital punishment, and women in the pastorate. I do disagree with the (selection) process, that the committee did not include a single conservative."

Charles Wade, pastor of First Church, Arlington, Texas, and chairman of the search committee that recommended Baker as executive, told commissioners: "One of the issues raised is that the selection process was flawed. It may have been, but if you are unhappy (with the process) I suggest you attack me (not Baker)."

Wade, also immediate past chairman of the commission, pointed out another issue concerned conservatives' unwillingness to concede on the exceptions to abortion: "Your stubbornness in that position has condemned millions of babies yet unborn to die. If you fire him (Baker), you may think you have pleased 52-53-54-55 percent of Southern Baptists. But there are 45-46-47-48 percent of us who want to work on abortion, who are polarized if you are so rigid

you will not let us help you."

Wade asked: "Do you really want to end 98 percent of the abortions in America, or do you want to win a political point and let millions of babies die?"

C. Nolan Phillips, pastor of University Church, Middletown, Ohio, said he differs with Baker's views on abortion and added, "You cannot carry the flag if you do not believe what the flag stands for."

George A. Strickland, director of missions of Nine Mile Baptist Association in Pinckneyville, Ill., warned commissioners that firing Baker could trigger acrimony in the divided Southern Baptist Convention. "I don't think you know what kind of thing you'll unleash out in the field if you fire this man," he said.

Ben Mitchell, pastor of Middle Valley Church, Hixson, Tenn., who described himself as a "rookie" attending his first meeting of the commission, said Baker's views on abortion, capital punishment and the role of women in the church are "at best theologically imprecise, at worst theologically incorrect."

Another commissioner, Curtis Caine, a medical doctor from Jackson, Miss., and a member of First Church there, twice asked Baker to answer questions clarifying his previously stated views on the three controversial issues.

Both times Baker declined, the second time saying he would be willing to sit with the commissioner "eyeball to eyeball . . . and tell you how my heart is shaped . . . but I would not be making a statement in response to you."

(Continued on page 4)

Attempt to fire Baker fails with 15-15 vote

(Continued from page 3)

Baker added: "What I have experienced on the part of some persons on this board is either inability or refusal to understand my word. What I've experienced on the part of some is an adversarial relationship which takes my words and uses them in a combative way . . . to try and tack my hide to the wall. I would rather not have my words to you (Cairle) used by people whose ears are unhearing and hearts are unresponsive."

Three trustees who said they had voted against Baker in January told commissioners they would vote to support Baker in the effort to dismiss him.

Larrey Noia, minister of music and school administrator at First Southern Church, Fountain Valley, Calif., said he voted against Baker in January, but since has judged the executive on performance. "I have seen no position come out of the Christian Life Commission (since January) I oppose," he said.

Jerry Berl Hopkins, pastor of Reidland Church, Paducah, Ky., also said he voted against Baker in January, but said he did not feel the dismissal effort is right. "It is against the spirit of Christ. Would you want this done to you in this manner?" he asked.

Coy Privette, CLC vice chairman and executive director of the Christian Action League of North Carolina in Raleigh, said: "I voted against Larry Baker, but I was wrong. I have asked the Lord to forgive me." He looked at Baker and added, "Now I am going to vote for you."

The attempt to dismiss Baker was set in motion by James Wood, pastor of Mount Vernon Church, Atlanta, who

in the opening minutes of the meeting presented an alternate agenda that postponed committee meetings and called for a business session immediately following Baker's first report to commissioners.

Atchison's motion to dismiss Baker was followed by a series of parliamentary procedures. Chairman Lynn P. Clayton, editor of the Baptist Message, newsjournal of the Louisiana Baptist Convention, ruled the motion out of order because it would rescind Baker's previous election. "You cannot rescind an election," Clayton said, but his ruling was overrudden by a simple majority vote.

In the voting, all 30 of the present commissioners cast ballots, including Clayton, who said he was going to "exercise his prerogative" as chairman to vote, and cited Robert's rules of Order to support his decision. The only commissioner absent was Thomas Boland, a banker from Chamblee, Ga., who had a schedule conflict.

Commissioners turned down an amendment by Cleith Campbell, pastor of Altizer Church, Huntington, W.Va., that would have given Baker until next March to prove himself. Campbell's motion called for commissioners to meet in special session to reconsider Baker's performance on issues related to abortion, capital punishment, and women in ministry.

Prior to the vote on his dismissal, Baker told commissioners the past six months had been eventful, turbulent, and productive. "The piece of work of which I am proudest during the past months is the commission's initiative on abortion," he said. "We have focused our moral agenda on the issue of abortion on a scope never seen before in the Southern Baptist Convention."

"One of the commissioners told me

recently, 'We've done more on abortion in the past few months than the Southern Baptist Convention has done in 40 years.'"

Baker outlined new or expanded CLC program initiatives, including those related to abortion, AIDS, citizenship, pornography, world hunger, and gambling, as well as expanded efforts in production, marketing and distribution of ethics resources.

"In the coming year, we as a commission have a remarkable opportunity," he said. "If we focus our attention and direct our energies, this can be our highest hour and our finest year."

Atchison, who had made the motion to dismiss Baker, later acknowledged he was disappointed with the outcome but said he would accept the vote and work with Baker: "I think there's a good spirit on our board, and we have been able to accomplish some things we had on our conservative agenda."

We did give the staff some guidelines they never had before and thus accomplished what we would have had with a man with those conservative concerns."

Asked if Baker's tenure would be challenged next year, Atchison, new CLC chairman, said: "I have no idea; it's not in my mind at all. Probably that question will have to be answered in what we see this year. We've given him another year to give the leadership we feel Southern Baptists need in this place."

(Contributing to this article were Dan Martin and Marv Knox of the Baptist Press central office, Tim Fields of the Christian Life Commission and Greg Warner of the Florida Baptist Witness, representing the Southern Baptist Press Association.)

Radio-TV group adopts budget

(Continued from page 3)

President Thornton reported that only about 10 percent of programming in the fall ACTS schedule would be reruns.

Among new programs being produced, he said, are new "Invitation to Life" episodes, six college football games, new "Profiles" programs, and a new southern gospel music series to begin in January.

Development staff members reported more than \$869,000 in cash and pledges had been received in a capital fund drive in the Atlanta area.

Included was a \$200,000 grant from an Atlanta-based foundation to be used to fund a central distribution system for ACTS. In addition, the staff reported, a \$350,000 deferred gift was received which was not included in the reported total. A goal of \$1.2 million was announced for the campaign.

The recent Southern Baptist Convention controversy surfaced briefly

during trustee discussions. John Peper of Maryland took note of the conservative swing in SBC resolutions and said, "My prayer is that our commission is going in that direction."

In response Allen said he had resisted any tendency to "politicize" commission programming. He said, "We try to address our various publics with people who are preaching the gospel." Allen added he is trying to be certain that a broad range of viewpoints is represented on the network,

but the emphasis is on preaching the gospel.

Allen also asked trustees to recommend future speakers for the two Baptist Hour television programs which schedule speakers on an annual rotation. Speakers now are Peter James Flamming, pastor of First Church, Richmond, Va., and Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix Church. He said two new speakers will be chosen to begin broadcasting in January when speakers are to be changed.

Tennessee names Harrison student director

BRENTWOOD, TN — Ircel C. Harrison Jr., program associate in the Tennessee Baptist Convention's Student Department for the past three years has been named as director of the department.

He is a graduate of the University

of Mississippi, Hattiesburg; Southwestern Seminary; and earned the doctor of ministry degree from Southern Seminary. He is a former BSU director at Mississippi State University.



Isolation at every turn

SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76180

This letter reflects the isolation that results from having been deprived acceptance and emotional support from family and friends.

I am 17, a junior in high school. When I was 7, my father died. My mom's jobs take up most of her time. I have no brothers or sisters. Mom had to raise me by herself, but she's either too busy or too tired to give me much attention. We were always moving from town to town, alone.

A year ago I became pregnant. I went away to have the baby. Since then everything has been so difficult. When I try to make friends, I fail. I have never had many anyway, but this is unbearable. Do you have any suggestions?

We tried to tell her why and then suggest some steps she might take.

We acquire our first images of ourselves in the eyes of parents. If we are denied sustenance for our personalities through death or absence of a parent, then it is likely that we will lack the self-esteem required to relate well to others.

Your initial experiences, however, need not cripple you. Each of us must restructure the way we view ourselves. Why not take your cue from the way God sees you: as a precious individual, valued by him, loved by him. With this new perspective, you can begin to look for the best in yourself—expecting to find it! Christ can help in self-identity and in sin problems.

Some practical steps might include seeking new acquaintances and becoming involved in activities for youth. Change crowds to find those who are more accepting, especially in a church that demonstrates genuine interest in persons. Only as a last resort should you consider going to a new community where people will not look at who you were but at who you are becoming!

Mullins Award honors two

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (BP) — A retired state Baptist convention executive and a late Southern Baptist foreign missionary have been honored by Southern Seminary with the school's highest award.

In convocation services opening the fall semester at the Louisville, Ky., campus, the E.Y. Mullins Denominational Service Award was presented to Franklin Owen, retired executive secretary-treasurer of the Kentucky Baptist Convention, and posthumously

ly to the late Libby Tarlton Senter, Southern Baptist missionary to Liberia who was murdered in November 1986.

The E.Y. Mullins award, the seminary's equivalent of an honorary doctorate, is named for the Southern Seminary president who led the school from 1899 until his death in 1928. The theologian also served terms as president of the Southern Baptist Convention and the Baptist World Alliance.

Directors decry endorsement

(Continued from page 3)

Tenn.; J. Frank Gilreath Jr. of Charlotte, N.C., and Anne Neil of Wake Forest, N.C.

The SBC also voted to hold its annual convocation March 21-23 at Mercer University in Macon, Ga.

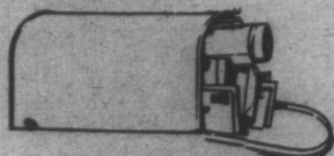
Membership in the SBA totals more than 10,000 people, including 1,400 members who have paid between \$25 and \$100 fees. Others are in 14 churches which have joined.

Directors adopted goals to reach by convocation time: 2,500 regular members who will pay \$30 each; 250 sustaining members to pay \$100 each; and 30 churches who will pay \$1 per resident member. Student membership is \$10.

The SBA board spent considerable time discussing the role and representation of women within the organization. Anne Neil, active in Women in Ministry in the SBC, told the directors, "The SBA is the first group of Southern Baptists in my lifetime to go on record as supportive of equal partnership with women in ministry."

"But is the SBA committed to taking women seriously?" She was supported by other women present.

The directors responded, insisting that each state have a woman among its three or more directors, and the first vice president of the SBA will be a liaison with the national Women in Ministry group.



Letters to the editor

Letters to the editor must be limited to 300 words and the editor reserves the right to trim those that are longer. Editorial prerogatives must be reserved under all circumstances, and the opinions of the letter writers do not necessarily reflect the views of the staff of the Baptist Record. Only signed letters will be used, but the writer may request that his name be withheld.

Home Mission Board concerns

Editor:

I am writing in response to the recent Home Mission Board decision to restrict the appointment of divorced persons as well as those who are believers in speaking in tongues, etc.

We are setting a poor example to the lost world and to everyone who would criticize our Baptist system of cooperation.

As one who has served as a summer mission volunteer while a Baptist college student, this also hurts the field personnel who are working against all odds out there. The people who one reaches are sometimes divorced and have other situations that need to be handled with care in love and understanding. It does not lend itself to bickering over theology or marriage, present or former ones or their history.

As it is now, one must pass the true Baptist test to even get appointed. We are getting nowhere in missions if we can't recruit persons who are willing to serve as God has called them, rich, poor, divorced, different in theology, etc.

Please reconsider the whole situation, HMB.

Lonnie Stewart
Auburn, Ala.

Task of church training

Editor:

Recently the following pastor's column in a church bulletin came across my desk. I thought it worth passing on. Many Mississippi pastors have taken the same stance. Thank the Lord for them. We need many more.

CHURCH TRAINING — A PRIORITY
Dr. Darrell Robinson
Dauphin Way Baptist
Mobile, AL

For years Church Training has been on the back burner in the life of many churches. Today we are seeing the devastating effect.

Many of our members know and understand little of the great doctrines of the Bible, or church history and polity, and of social, moral, and ethical teachings of the Bible.

A great trend in many churches today is to pattern after the modern marketing techniques in reaching people. The pattern is to discover a need and give attention to that need. There is certainly an element of truth and legitimacy in this approach. It is the purpose of our Lord and his church to minister to people at the point of their need. And that approach gets a crowd. It 'scratches where they itch.'

Yet, such an approach has the church putting band aids on cancers, dealing with surface needs rather than the source of problems.

GROUNDING OUR PEOPLE in the faith of the Bible and the church is a must. Your leaders, deacons, staff, and pastor are calling on the entire church family to participate in

Church Training on Sunday evening at 5 p.m. Beginning Oct. 4, we will have a fully departmentalized Church Training program. The Church Training group will provide a time of enriching fellowship for participants and a personal growth through study and training.

Won't you join your pastor and leaders in making Church Training a priority?"

Notice the "scratch where they itch" comment. Maybe we do need to give a long range look at providing ongoing discipleship training for all of our people. This is the task of Church Training.

Mose D. Dangerfield
Director, Church Training
Mississippi Baptist Convention Board

The Bork nomination

Editor:

A Baptist Press release dated August 28 stated the Public Affairs Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention has endorsed the nomination of Robert Bork to the United States Supreme Court.

This action is unprecedented in our Southern Baptist Convention. I call upon the committee to rescind this action and apologize to all Southern Baptist for jeopardizing the tax-exempt status of our great denomination. The committee action is in violation of Southern Baptist by-laws and long standing Baptist polity.

The issue is not Mr. Bork. He may or may not be qualified. The issue is whether Southern Baptists will now make a radical departure from our historical position of separation of church and state by endorsing candidates and nominees for public office.

I congratulate the Christian Life Commission of the Baptist General Convention of Texas for calling the Public Affairs Committee to task on this issue.

The chairman of the Public Affairs Committee is:

Sam P. Currin
17 Pineview St.
Raleigh, N.C. 27608
William L. Jenkins, Jr.
Long Beach, MS

The Bork nomination

Editor:

I want to go on record as saying publicly that the Public Affairs Committee of the Southern Baptist Convention made a serious and historic mistake when they voted to endorse Robert Bork as a candidate, or appointee, to the United States Supreme Court.

The issue is not their endorsement of Robert Bork. The issue is the endorsement by any Southern Baptist Convention agency, institution, or committee of any candidate for any office at any time under any circumstances.

The members of the Public Affairs

Committee have shown either ignorance or disregard for one of the important principles to which the Southern Baptist Convention has adhered in the 142 years of its history. No seven people within the Southern Baptist Convention have the right to try to throw the weight of the 14 million member constituency of the Southern Baptist Convention behind any governmental person.

If the Southern Baptist Convention in its next annual session fails to disavow this action by its Public Affairs Committee, the mistake will be compounded.

It is sad that we Christians, who have a Savior, keep looking for a savior in the political realm, or keep trying to make one.

Joe H. Tuten, pastor
Calvary Baptist Church
Jackson, Mississippi

Forces of good and evil

Editor:

Since the dawn of history during the days of Cain and Abel there have existed in this world two mighty forces: "the force of good" and "the force of evil." These forces are constantly in conflict with each other. Even today, these forces are present in our lives.

During my lifetime I have heard and have known about Adolph Hitler from 1931 to his suicidal death in 1945. Hitler, as history will record his life, was a man of evil. He followed the "force of evil." Hitler brought about destruction, misery, and death into the world! He was indeed the Great Satan of the 20th Century.

Conversely, I have heard and know about Billy Graham from 1949 to the present. Billy Graham as history will record his life is a man of good will. He follows the "force of good." Billy Graham has brought about and is still bringing happiness and the love of God into the world! He is God's evangelist of the 20th Century.

Man has to decide which force to follow. In choosing, man must decide what he wants out of life. It is really a simple choice: man must choose either GOOD or EVIL!

Robert S. Leigh
Jackson

Toxish celebration

Editor:

On Oct. 11, 1987, Toxish Baptist Church, Pontotoc County, will be celebrating its sesquicentennial. Some of our former pastors and many former members and friends will be present. Lunch will be served by the church, and an interesting afternoon program has been planned.

We have written to former members who live away from this area when addresses were available to us, but we know there are those we may have missed. We are asking your help in passing the invitation along because this is a great day for our church.

It would help us in planning to hear from those who will be with us on October 11. Letters may be addressed to:

Historical Committee
Toxish Baptist Church
Route 1, Box 98A
Pontotoc, Mississippi 38863

We appreciate your help in this matter.

Cooper Thompson
Publicity Chairman

Involving Adult and Youth Teachers

in
JANUARY

BIBLE STUDY

Mississippi College

Hall of Fame Room

9:00 - 3:00



Harvey



Hickerson

Thursday, Oct. 1

For teachers of Adults: "MALACHI: Rekindling the Fires of Faith"

Led by: Dr. James E. Harvey, consultant, Sunday school department.

For teachers of Youth: "I John: The Truth About Love and Assurance"

Led by: Stan Hickerson, Minister of education and youth, Liberal, Kansas

Lunch provided complimentary of Mississippi College, Dr. Lewis Nobles, president

Sponsored by: Sunday School Dept.
Mississippi Baptist Convention Bd.
Keith Wilkinson, director
Chester Vaughn, program director

"A Service of the Cooperative Program"



SATELLITE NETWORK, INC.

Effective July 12, 1987

CT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
5	Joy of Music Gloria	Country Crossroads	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Moody Science Sunday School Lesson
6	This is the Life Great Churches of America (II)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Davey and Gladys Gladys
7	Changed Lives	Prayer Times Sapphire Factory	Prayer Times Sapphire Factory	Word of Life Sapphire Factory	Prayer Times Sapphire Factory	Prayer Times Sapphire Factory	Sapphire Factory Sapphire Factory
8	ACTS Methodist Hour	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
9	Come Alive	One in the Spirit Country Crossroads	Catch the Spirit Country Crossroads	This is the Life Great Churches of America (I)	Joy of Music Gloria	Christian Lifestyle Magazine Great Churches of America (II)	Bill Cosby Show Weekend Hospital
10	Highlight Catch the Spirit	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Q & A Weekend Show
11	Great Churches of America (II)	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Life Today	Plant Program Fundations
12	The Baptist Hour	Prayer Times Sapphire Factory	Prayer Times Sapphire Factory	Word of Life Sapphire Factory	Prayer Times Sapphire Factory	Prayer Times Sapphire Factory	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Outdoor Magazine
1	Sunday Selection	...	...	...	...	...	Moody Science Sunday School Lesson
2	...	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Davey and Gladys Gladys
3	Love Worth Finding	Psychiatry and You Sapphire Factory	Psychiatry and You Sapphire Factory	Psychiatry and You Sapphire Factory	Psychiatry and You Sapphire Factory	Psychiatry and You Sapphire Factory	Sapphire Factory Sapphire Factory
4	Joy of Music Gloria	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Shirley, the Bush Kiddie Lodge	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
5	Catch the Spirit This is the Life	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Country Crossroads	Bill Cosby Show Weekend Hospital
6	Highlight ACTS Methodist Hour	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Q & A Weekend Show
7	Gloria	...	...	...	...	...	Plant Program Fundations
8	Christian Lifestyle Magazine	Joy of Music Gloria	Catch the Spirit Country Crossroads	Highlight Catch the Spirit	Christian Lifestyle Magazine	Strength for Life	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Outdoor Magazine
9	The Baptist Hour	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	COPE	Moody Science Sunday School Lesson
10	Joy of Music Gloria	...	...	...	...	...	Davey and Gladys Gladys
11	This is the Life Sunday Selection	Country Crossroads	Great Churches of America (I)	In Concert	Great Churches of America (II)	Country Crossroads	Sapphire Factory Sapphire Factory
12	...	...	...	...	...	...	Long Ranger Cartoon Adventures of the Lone Ranger
1	Highlight ACTS Methodist Hour	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	What's Happening	Q & A Weekend Show
2	Gloria	Plant Program Fundations
3	Sunday Selection	Jimmy Houston Outdoors Outdoor Magazine
4

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For information contact:



Farrell Blankenship
Miss. Baptist Conv. Bd.
P. O. Box 530
Jackson, MS 39205

Smith tells singles:

"Nothing can happen today God won't see me through"

By Tim Nicholas

Labor Day weekend was spent attending the Single Adult conference at Ridgecrest Baptist Conference Center in North Carolina learning, if nothing else, that there are a lot of us.

Estimates are that 32 percent of all Southern Baptist adults are single. That puts just about all the other categories in the minority. "You just can't ignore that sizable group of people," said Jerry Hayner, pastor of Forrest Hills Church, Raleigh, who was the conference preacher.

It rained on about 3,200 of us (about 80 of us from First Church, Jackson) that weekend. In fact, it rained all but about 30 minutes of the weekend. That was the time a group of us tried to climb a mountain, getting drenched on the way back.

But, looking at it from a positive viewpoint, the rain made me attend the sessions — there was no place else to go. And in the sessions I heard one of the finest speakers by whom I have ever been lectured to.

He goes by Harold Ivan Smith. He was what they called the Singlelife lecturer. I discovered him after the first of his four lectures. By then, people were going 45 minutes early to save seats.

Smith, a writer and speaker from Kansas City, discussed the single adult's relationship with one's self, parents, friends, and his or her world. I caught the last three.

Smith said that a person's parents don't have to be alive to influence him or her. And the age doesn't matter. He told of a woman in her 70s who told him her mother is driving her crazy. How? The woman had been on the front porch with Roscoe the night before and her mother flashed the porch lights "having a carnal fit," she said. "Mother has run off every man . . . and at my age there are not that many."

Smith explained that many parents keep single adults in "half nelsons emotionally." (Note that much of what Smith says goes for anybody, not just singles.) Singleness of one's children is sometimes a problem for the parents.

He said that even Jesus had problems with his mother.

Solutions to parental problems, according to Smith include:

"Choose to be a son or daughter rather than a child." "Reject their fears and irrationalities." He told of a woman about to take a big trip who was apprehensive about going. Why? "She threatened to die while I'm gone."

"Affirm their progress. Parents can change." "Admit their faults and inadequacies." Smith described the parent a son or daughter cannot please and the emotionally absent parent.

"Delineate your 54-40 or fight." He told the group that there are some issues worth arguing over, but that some things aren't worth the energy.

"Resist their curiosity." When one strings questions together the son or daughter can say "I can understand

why you would ask that, but I hope you'll understand why I'm not going to answer it." (That might work anywhere.)

"Reduce your 'manipulat-ability'." "Watch out from the trinkets." laundry, home-cooked meals, free advice. "Some of those things have very little strings that will strangle you," he said.

"Regulate your time with your parents, develop your own traditions, accept your parents as your parents, and obey God." Noted Smith, "If Jesus had obeyed Mary he would probably have gone back to the carpenter shop."

He said, "There comes a time when you stop indicting your parents for however they have failed you. It's important you tell your parents they are loved."

In Smith's lectures, which he said come from his book "Positively Single," he opened and closed with children's stories about the topic at hand. He told of a frog and a toad who, being friends, once had a picnic "sit-

ing, too." "He was a little bit of the Holy Spirit to me," said Smith. "A friend is someone who helps you find your strength in God."

Concerning the single's world, Smith told of the I Chronicles story of Jabez (What parent would name a child a word meaning pain? Smith mused.) He said there are two responses to difficult circumstances — change the circumstance, or failing that, change one's attitude toward that circumstance. Concerning the character of a person who is blessed, Smith said he or she has priorities clear. He pointed to the Bible verse, "Seek ye first the kingdom of heaven . . ." He said that verse guarantees, not wealth, but "everything you need to serve him."

Smith said the single adult looking for Mr. or Miss Right is wasting time. "Work on becoming Mr. or Miss Right," he said.

Smith, in what may have been a wrapup statement for his series, said "There is nothing that can happen to me today that God won't see me through . . . or bring enough friends in my life to help me through."

One other area of the conference (other than the food which was good and my general aversion to Jesus cheers which sprang up once in the auditorium) was a dual lecture on "Single Men Understanding Single Women," and Single . . . (the other way around). The woman leading the men's session allowed a few men to dominate the discussion. Then I went into the women's session with the leader's permission and there was one of the men who suffered from "Overspeak" in the other session. He talked there, too.

Basically, from these two sessions, I heard that women tend to have more dependency on others for a sense of self esteem and that men are more task oriented and that men are a real pain. It was depressing to know that so many men apparently have relationship disabilities according to the speaker. He did conclude that "men can only reach their full potential in and through Jesus Christ." He warned the women about dating men who are not Christians: "You be careful about dating in the world."



Jean Costner, music artist, Birmingham, sings for Singles.

ting alone together." Why friendships?

Smith said that friends are for companionship, since not everybody will be married. People need structure, security (He said when things go bump in the night, it's good to have a friend.), finances (He said that some in the church fellowship can't afford financially some of the outings, but need the experience. He said some provision should be made for them.) loneliness, intimacy, and "tag-teaming" ("When life is really letting us have it, I have someone in my corner," he said.)

Smith, in trauma once, had a friend who simply sat with him while he cried, saying absolutely nothing, cry-



Scriptures and prayers are tied to balloons and released.



"Truth" presents concerts for Singles.



Harold Ivan Smith lectures.

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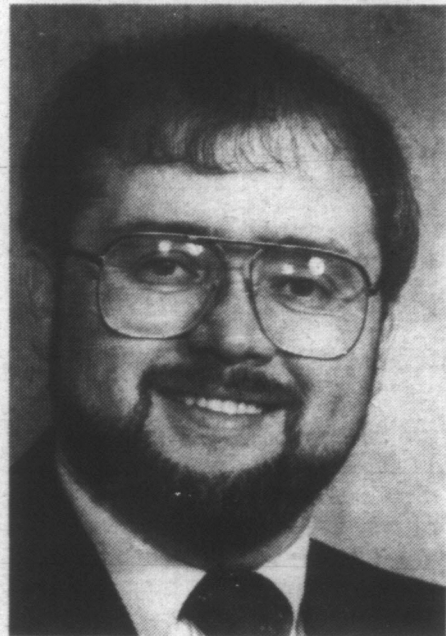
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Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

Lloyd Lunceford: Taiwan-bound



a music director." So that's what he was for a while at Cherry Street Church, Clarksdale, which he claims as his home church.

His dad, Fred Lunceford, was on the BSU Advisory Committee at Mississippi Delta Junior College when Lloyd was growing up. (Mr. Lunceford, now 73 and a retired truck driver, married Lloyd's mother when he was 32 and she was 16. He has a sense of humor which Lloyd inherited. He told his wife, "You think because you are half as old as I am now, that when I'm 100, you'll be 50!")

The day Lloyd enrolled as a freshman at Delta State University, his parents took him to church in Cleveland in the morning and then that afternoon took him to the BSU Center to introduce him to Jimmy Breland, the BSU director (who is still there.)

Now Lloyd remembers, "Jimmy Breland opened my eyes to another way we serve — ministry to students."

He earned bachelor of music in education and master of education degrees from Delta State and the master of divinity degree from New Orleans Seminary. He has been assistant BSU director at Delta State, music and youth director at First Church, Boyle, and at Duncan Church. While he was at New Orleans Seminary he drove 150 miles (round-trip) four days a week for two years to Poplarville, where he was part-time BSU director at Pearl River Junior College. During 1978 he was full-time BSU director there, the year before he joined Jerry Merriman in the state department of student work.

Since Lloyd is single, he does cook some, but he says he eats out a lot. He bought a house in Jackson in 1982. It's become a sort of "home away from home" for no telling how many students. Anyone who knows Lloyd knows he has a heart about as big as the world. He has welcomed MKs and international students and many others at his house. He calls Tom and Gloria Thurman's son, Philip (MK from Bangladesh) his "adopted son" and now he has another, Tim Young, son of James and Guinevere Young of Bangladesh. "I hate to leave them," he said. Some guy told him he ought to start charging people who stayed at

his house, but added, "Don't start with me. I'd owe you \$2,000 already!"

When he gets a chance, Lloyd plays tennis or softball or volleyball or he reads. He teaches a Sunday School class of college students at First Church, Jackson, where he's a member. "Folks told me I needed to be with a different age group sometimes, so I taught fourth and fifth grade boys one year, but then I said, 'Let me get back to college students!'"

It will be hard to leave his family and his friends here, Lloyd said, but he declared he's not going to say good-bye to anybody.

Actually, it's a small world and he plans to be back for visits, so he can say, "See you later."

"This generation and the older one look at the world differently," he said. "Older ones think four years a long time and that Taiwan is far away. The younger ones know that Taiwan is not so far and that four years is a short time." To this generation, it's a smaller world. Many young people are saying, according to Lloyd, "We are not threatened by living out our faith in another culture rather than here in the comforts that are familiar."

Lloyd has student friends in many places all over the world. He has a special talent for making friends quickly, and making the most of friendships that may be brief, as students move on and others take their places. "I believe God is moving me because of the need for focusing on relationships rather than on programs. I want in Taiwan to major on relationships, and to share Jesus with individuals."

He said he especially remembers that Keith Parks said 95% of the ministers are ministering here in the U.S. to 5% of the world's population. "People are standing in line for my job here in Mississippi, but no one is there to fill the job I'm taking in Taiwan, except me."

The first time I saw Lloyd he was leading the singing for international students at Garaywa. I was impressed with his joyous attitude — at how happy he appeared to be. But now he seems even happier than ever before. There's a sort of glow about him. And I think I know the reason. He confided, "I feel such a complete sense of freedom since I made the decision to go. Now I can be like the apostle Paul. I can tell students not 'do as I say,' but 'do as I do!'"

Supreme Court asked to act on PAC ruling

WASHINGTON, D.C. (EP) — The U.S. Supreme Court has been asked to strike a law which requires churches to register as political action committees (PACs) if they participate in referenda on moral issues. The law is being appealed by 13 congregations in Jackson, Tennessee; the churches say the U.S. Constitution forbids government restriction on free speech by religious organizations.

Conference of the deaf to feature Buddy Burgess

Buddy Burgess will be the Bible Teacher at the Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf (MBCD) Oct. 2-4. Burgess is full-time minister with the deaf at First Church, Memphis.



Burgess

Registration for the conference should be sent to the Cooperative Missions Department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

Richard Jones of Birmingham will lead a special track for youth. This is a new conference feature.

MBCD is an annual retreat and training event for deaf Baptists and their workers. It is held at Camp Garaywa and begins on Friday night. The program closes with lunch on Sunday, says Richard Alford, language missions consultant.

Conference costs are \$31.25 for the weekend or \$12 for those commuting. Registration is \$12.

Roberts tells how God speaks to him

NEW YORK, N.Y. (EP) — When God speaks to Oral Roberts, "He speaks to me directly and in English and it comes right into my body," Roberts told talk show host and syndicated columnist Larry King. "God has done this many times," continued Roberts. "I don't think I'm very special, because I believe he speaks

to everyone. You just have to be open to hear it."

Roberts attracted much attention earlier this year when he said God had told him that he would have to raise a specified sum for his Bible college, or be "called home." Roberts says donations have dropped about 33 percent since the PTL scandal broke.

Devotional

The Bible: Blueprint for missions

By Ruth Allen

Again Jesus said, "Peace be with you! As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." And with that he breathed on them and said, "Receive the Holy Spirit" (John 20:21-22 NIV).

There are two methods for drawing spirals. One begins out on the circumference and gradually converges to dead center. The other begins at the center and keeps expanding the circle. Thus, the size of the circle is unlimited.

As Jesus commissioned his first disciples, so has he commissioned all who believe. He said, "As you are going, make disciples, and tell the gospel to every human being."

After a sixteen-year sojourn in Africa, David Livingstone, home on furlough, spoke at the University of Glasgow. He was gaunt and weary from long exposure to the African sun and 27 attacks of African fever; one arm having been rendered useless by the teeth of a lion, hung helpless by his side. Nevertheless, he chose to go back to Africa. The words that stirred the hearts of his hearers were, "Shall I tell you what supported me through all of the years of exile among people whose language I could not understand, and whose attitude was always uncertain and often hostile? It is this, 'Lo, I am with you always even unto the end of the world.'"

The Lord's sustaining words appear at the conclusion of the Great Commission found in Matthew's gospel. It is this word which reveals God's blueprint for taking the message of salvation to every person.

Daily assimilation and appropriation of God's Word helps us understand God's plan for implementing his commission.

On the evening of the resurrection, Jesus appeared to his disciples and said to them, "As the Father has sent me, I am sending you." Please notice Jesus' missionary emphasis. Surely the disciples had many questions to ask the Risen Lord. But he precluded any inquisitiveness they may have had and pointed them to the essential truth of the resurrection.

Since the salvation of all people is Christ's supreme thought, it should and must be ours. How is it possible for one who professes to follow Christ not to believe in missions, when missions is simply the organized effort to carry out the will of the Master?

A daily routine of serious Bible study stimulates hearts and minds to the divine imperative to share the gospel message. Christ's blueprint for missions, as described in the Bible, begins with each one you meet and moves on to the ends of the earth.

Ruth Allen (Mrs. Judd) is a resident of Jackson and teaches Bible at Jackson Preparatory School.

Texas CLC opposes Bork endorsement

By Ken Camp

DALLAS (BP) — The Southern Baptist Convention Public Affairs Committee's endorsement of Robert H. Bork for United States Supreme Court justice may violate SBC bylaws and could jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the nation's largest Protestant denomination, according to a statement issued by the Texas Baptist Christian Life Commission.

The statement was adopted without dissenting vote Aug. 28 by the commission, which serves as the public affairs committee for the 2.4-million-member Baptist General Convention of Texas. It terms the action by the Southern Baptist PAC a "radical and tragic departure from Baptist polity" and calls for a review of the committee's action as a possible violation of SBC bylaws.

Noting that the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs has not joined the Southern Baptist PAC in endorsing Bork, the statement says, "While Baptist agencies and committees have often addressed issues, they have wisely and historically avoided endorsing particular candidates for appointment or election."

"Not only has the Public Affairs Committee embraced the appointment of Mr. Bork, a spokesman for the Committee has indicated to the press that in its endorsement of Bork, the committee speaks for Southern Baptists."

"In its formal action and statement to the press, the Committee has exhibited incredible disregard for and ignorance of Baptist polity," the CLC statement continues. "It is good for appropriate Baptist agencies and bodies to inform Baptists of important issues and how candidates stand on issues, but it is bad for one Baptist to presume to speak for another and to adopt partisan positions on candidates and appointments for office."

The statement decries such action as "tremendously divisive and destructive," saying such endorsements divide fellowship over persons who may not live up to the expectations of an endorsing group and hurt the Southern Baptist witness among those who may negatively perceive the person endorsed.

"Such actions may also jeopardize the tax-exempt status of the Southern Baptist Convention," the statement says.

"Because of the grave implications of the Public Affairs Committee to review these and other actions of the Public Affairs Committee which may violate traditional Baptist polity and the bylaws which govern the Committee's program assignment and operation," the statement concludes.

Ken Camp writes for Texas Baptists.

Missionaries in Mississippi

Missionaries who have retired, and live in Mississippi:

Mrs. Rosalee Mills Appleby, Brazil, Box 281, Canton, MS 39046; Cecil and Marie Roberson, Nigeria, 3417 Poplar Springs Drive, Meridian; Auris Pender, Singapore, 520 South Natchez St., Box 212, Kosciusko; Edythe Montroy, Nigeria, 1251 Lee Drive, Clarksdale; Georgia Mae Ogburn, Chile, 2007 A 24th Avenue, Meridian; Cornelia Leavell, Hong Kong, 208 S. Washington St., Starkville; James and Zelma Foster, Suriname, 742 Woodlake Drive, Jackson; Antonina Canzoneri, Bahamas, 5939 Clinton Blvd., Jackson; Ralph and Joyce Davis, Ghana, 402 S. 23rd Ave., Hattiesburg; Parkes and Martha Ellen Marler, Greece, 712 Wilson St., Forest; Jimmy and Susie Hartfield, Mexico, Rt. 8, Box 1474, Hattiesburg; Winfield and Laverne Applewhite, Indonesia,

108 Caribbean Cove, Clinton; Ralph and Gena Calcote, Japan, 1907 Barnwell Circle, Yazoo City; John and Jean Jacobs, Trinidad, 520 Magazine St., Tupelo.

Missionaries on furlough in Mississippi:

David and Linda Finnell, Singapore, on medical leave, 3331 Old Canton Road, Jackson; Charles and Indy Whitten, 137 Melrose Drive, Jackson, (retiring at the end of the month); Carl and Lillian Prewitt, Philippines, 442 Cummins St., Jackson; Raymond and Ann Kolb, Brazil, c/o Mrs. James Stringer, 117 Trailwood Drive, Clinton; Karl and Peggy Wallace, Peru, 715 East Northside Drive, Jackson; Russell and Annette Herrington, Costa Rica, Box 1172, Rome, Ga.; June and Major McDaniel, Korea, James and Mary Slack, Philippines.

National quartet convention expanded to nine days

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (EP) — The National Quartet Convention, which features "the very best Southern Gospel music," has been expanded to nine days, according to organizers. The convention, now set for Sept. 25-Oct. 3, 1987, will feature seminars by top names such as Ben Speer, James Blackwood, and Joel and LaBreeska Hemphill. The convention

also features a "National Talent Search Competition" with a first prize package which includes a two-song video deal from Gospel Country Network, and two days of recording time. Performing groups for the National Quartet Convention include the Kingsmen, Cathedral Quartet, Speer Family, Hemphills, and the Talleys.

Revival Dates

Castlewoods (Rankin): Sept. 27-30; Harold Bryson, professor of preaching, New Orleans Seminary, speaker; Cecil Harper, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Fred Fowler, pastor.

Mission Hill, Jackson: Sept. 27-Oct. 2; Sunday School at 10 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m. and 1:15 p.m. with lunch in the fellowship hall; Mon.-Fri. at 7:30 p.m.; Wiley Reid of Brookhaven, evangelist; Robert Derrick, music; Jim Henson, pastor.

Deerbrook, Brooksville: Sept. 27-29; services, Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon. and Tues., 7 p.m.; Alton Kirkley, pastor, Southside, Columbus, evangelist; Mrs. Dorothy Spurgeon, musician, with Jimmy King, song leader; special music each night; Homer Ramage, pastor.

Homecomings

Providence Lebanon; Oct. 4, 11 a.m.; Robert Jones, pastor, Washington Church, Washington, and former pastor of Providence, guest speaker; dinner on the grounds.

First, Saltillo: Sept. 27; morning worship followed by lunch in new building with afternoon services; tours of new addition are planned; Ken Anderson, pastor.

First, Vancleave: 85th anniversary, Sept. 27; worship services, 8:30 and 11; Sunday School, 9:45; dinner on the grounds and afternoon service.

Cold Springs to celebrate 75th year

Cold Springs Church, Collins will be celebrating its 75th anniversary on Sept. 27. Activities will begin with Sunday School at 9:45 a.m., followed by morning worship, covered-dish luncheon, and special afternoon services. Guest preacher will be former pastor Robert Magee, present pastor of Temple Church in Ruston, La., and president of Louisiana Baptist Convention. Brian Ivey is pastor.

Exit sign for Garaywa changes

The exit sign on I-20 for Camp Garaywa has changed numbers. It is now Exit 35. It was formerly Exit 12.

Falwell pledges to stay at PTL

FORT MILLS, S.C. (EP) — Jerry Falwell has pledged to remain as leader of the financially-troubled PTL ministry, claiming that if he left "there'd be nothing left but an auctioneer." Falwell pledged to stay with PTL until it is "solid, solvent, and operating properly" and until he could turn it over to people whose "hearts were right and motives were right."

Revival Results

Utica: 22 professions of faith, one by statement, one by letter; evangelist, W.A. Smith; song leader, J.B. Betts; pastor, John Ed Snell.

46 couples will lead covenant marriage retreats

Forty-six trained leader couples will participate in Covenant Marriage retreats in as many or more churches in Mississippi during the fall quarter of 1987.

It all began at Ridgecrest, N.C. in July when 16 Mississippians attended the week-long launch training for Covenant Marriage. This was followed by 58 couples in Marriage Enrichment at Tiak O'Khata, Jackson, and

Gulfshore. Of this group 38 couples have taken special leaders training at Jackson to prepare for the fall.

Pastors may make requests for recommendations of leader couples by writing Family Ministry, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205.

These retreats are in addition to the "fall festival," Marriage for all Seasons, Oct. 23-25, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly. This event, open to all Married Couples, begins on Friday night and closes on Sunday noon. Reservations may be made by sending \$60 (toward total fee of \$135 per couple) to Frank Simmons, Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Pass Christian, MS 39571.

Sidon to celebrate centennial

On Sunday, Sept. 27, Sidon Church will celebrate its Centennial.

Services will begin at 9:45 with visitors, former pastors and out of town guests being recognized. A booklet containing the program and a brief history will be given out.

John Daly a former pastor will be the speaker during the 11 a.m. service.

Dinner on the grounds will be served with special music and singing in the evening. Eli Wiltshire is pastor.

Macedonia to mark 75th year

Macedonia Church, Lee County: will celebrate its 75th anniversary on Oct. 3 and 4. The celebration will begin at 4 p.m. Saturday with games and activities for all ages followed by a cookout at 5:30. There will be singing at 7 p.m. and a message by former pastor, Robert Armstrong.

Sunday will be "Old Fashioned Day" beginning at 10 a.m. with singing and a message by former pastor, G. L. Ford. The 11 a.m. message will be brought by former pastor, Wayne Gullett.

Lunch will be served at noon followed by singing in the afternoon. Marion Payne is pastor.

Off the Record

Joan: "Is Ken a confirmed bachelor?"

Lynn: "He sure is. He sent his picture to a lonely hearts club and they returned it saying, 'We're not that lonely.'"

Democracy is precious

(Continued from page 2)

the only reason for having a Southern Baptist Convention is to provide a means of witnessing to the lost, to lose sight of God's will could mean the loss of opportunities to witness to the lost wherever they might be found.

This, then, could easily mean that thousands of lost would not be saved; and their blood would be on our hands.

We must protect our democracy at all costs.

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Virginia Baptist board releases escrowed funds

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — The Virginia Baptist General Board has released funds which had been placed in an escrow account to support the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs, in the event its budget was deleted or reduced by the Southern Baptist Convention.

Board Treasurer Nathaniel W. Kellum said the action taken by the SBC at its annual meeting last June which continues funding for the Washington-based religious liberty agency, "satisfies the conditions of the motion" passed last year by the Baptist General Association of Virginia.

Messengers to the general association at its meeting last November in Richmond agreed to a motion to set aside \$75,000 from the SBC portion of Phase I of the BGAV budget in an escrow account for the Baptist Joint Committee.

For several years, some Southern Baptists have criticized the BJCPA claiming its positions on tuition tax

credits and religious activities in public schools are at odds with majority opinion in the SBC.

A motion at the SBC meeting in 1986 to sever ties with the BJC and the subsequent naming of a special study committee to examine the relationship between the two led the BGAV to approve a contingency plan to support the embattled agency.

In June, the special study committee recommended, and the SBC messengers approved, a plan that continues full funding and makes some changes in the BJCPA's structure.

Kellum, who had been placing \$6,250 in the escrow account each month since December, said about \$36,500 was released to the SBC Executive Committee at the end of June.

He said that some Virginia churches had asked that their contributions to the Cooperative Program not be added to the escrow account.

Southeastern Seminary faculty statement affirms mutual support

WAKE FOREST, N.C. (BP) — In its workshop prior to the opening of the fall semester, the 35-member faculty of Southeastern Seminary unanimously adopted a "Statement of Mutual Support."

The statement emphasizes the lordship of Christ as central to the work and lives of the faculty at the seminary in Wake Forest, N.C.

While not elaborating on its reference to "current circumstances in the Southern Baptist Convention," the statement calls attention to the faculty's "oneness of purpose and . . . unity of fellowship." Faculties of the six Southern Baptist seminaries have been criticized for their

theological views during the eight years of the theological/political controversy within the convention.

The statement also expressed a feeling that the members of the faculty have been "called to discipleship and ministry under the authority of our Lord Jesus Christ." It goes on to say that the faculty members have a responsibility to freely express their understanding of God's call.

The right-of-way isn't worth dying for.

Your temper improves the more you don't use it.

Staff Changes

Becker Church called Charles children's choirs. His wife, Lynn Sanderson, is working with the children's dept. in Church Training and the Sword Drill Team. They are going from Meadowood Church, Amory, where they have served in similar positions. George Henley is pastor.

First, Biloxi, has added Jan Smitherman and Gail DeBerry to its secretarial staff.

Roger Orman, minister of students, native of West Point and a graduate of Mississippi State University and Southwestern Seminary, is moving from First Church, Longview, Tex. to Central Church of Bearden in Knoxville, as minister of students.

Clear Branch Church, Florence, has called David Jay as pastor. Jay goes from New Harmony Church Philadelphia. He is a graduate of Clarke College. Jay and his wife, Janet, have two children, Andrea and Alicia.

Mississippi Baptist activities

- Sept. 27- Oct. 4 Sunday School Preparation Week (SS Emphasis)
- Sept. 29 Church Weekday Education Directors Conference; Baptist Building; 10 a.m.-3 p.m. (CAPM)
- Oct. 1 Cooperative Program Month (STEW Emphasis)
- Oct. 1 January Bible Study Clinic; Mississippi College, Clinton; 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (SS)
- Oct. 2-3 Single Adult Retreat; Oakhurst BC, Clarksdale; 7 p.m., 2nd-3 p.m., 3rd (CT)
- Oct. 2-4 Mississippi Baptist Conference of the Deaf; Camp Garaywa; 6 p.m., 2nd-1 p.m., 4th (CoMi)

Nicaraguan appointed to peace panel

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (BP) — Baptist leader Gustavo Parajon has been named by Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega to a panel that will monitor compliance with the new plan to bring peace to Central America.

Parajon, a medical doctor, will serve on the National Commission of Reconciliation along with Cardinal Miguel Obando y Bravo, who was appointed as the Roman Catholic representative. The cardinal, who has been a critic of the Sandinista government, will be president of the commission.

Parajon is to "represent the category of distinguished citizen," a Nicaraguan press release said. Others on the four-member panel are Mauricio Diaz, president of the opposition Popular Social Christian Party, representing registered political parties; and Vice President Sergio Ramirez, representing the government.

The Nicaragua commission is one of the national panels called for when chiefs of state of five nations in the troubled area met Aug. 7 in Guatemala to sign a peace accord.

Parajon and his wife, Joan, are commissioned missionaries of the Board of International Ministries of the American Baptist Churches in the U.S.A.

Parajon is a member of the executive committee of the Baptist Convention of Nicaragua and directs the convention's program of primary health care, Probadenic.

Parajon is interim pastor of the First Baptist Church of Managua, where he regularly teaches an adult Bible class.

GO YE T



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The Home Mission Board thanks all Baptist churches in Mississippi, especially these who gave the highest per capita offerings in 1986:

New Hope Baptist Church, Calhoun City	\$40.65
Sand Hill Baptist Church, Richton	36.54
Center Ridge Baptist Church, Dekalb	32.32

First Baptist Church, Columbus	23.37
Sandy Hook Baptist Church, Sandy Hook	22.86
Mantee Baptist Church, Mantee	18.80
Spring Cottage Baptist Church, Columbia	17.92
Bethsaida Baptist Church, French Camp	17.21
Noxapater Baptist Church, Noxapater	17.07
Enterprise Baptist Church, Enterprise	16.20

The Home Mission Board also thanks these Baptist churches who gave the highest dollar amounts in the state in 1986:

First Baptist Church, Jackson	\$60,096
First Baptist Church, Columbus	39,433
Broadmoor Baptist Church, Jackson	26,349
First Baptist Church, Vicksburg	14,661
Parkway Baptist Church, Jackson	13,129
First Baptist Church, Gulfport	12,275
First Baptist Church, Greenville	12,075
First Baptist Church, Brandon	11,628
First Baptist Church, Laurel	10,976
Morrison Heights Baptist Church, Clinton	9,685

(Figures from state convention offices and from Uniform Church Letters.)

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Just for the Record



GAs and Acteens of Swiftwater Church, Greenville, had their coronation service on August 30. The theme was "Jewels of the Kingdom." GA leader is Sandra McCorkle. The Acteen leader is Maxine Walker. Ray McCorkle is pastor.

GA pictured, that on right is Stacy Ingram. Second on right is Acteen Queen Vicky Ingram. She is escorted by her father,

Bobby Ingram. Her bearer is Mary Manning. From left the first Queen Regent in Service is Melinda Lindsay. She is escorted by Gary Whitt, and her bearer is Jonathan Killebrew. Second Queen Regent in Service is Kelli McCorkle. She is escorted by Sammy Lowery. Her bearer is Joseph Blount.



The Girls in Action of Bentonia Church, Bentonia, recently held a recognition service. They were awarded badges at each grade level for work done during the year. Pictured, front row, left to right, are Niki Gray, Cory Davis, Crystal Gray; second row: Cannon Walker, Emily Brooks, Jamie Griffin, Casey Davis, Candice Hancock, Tina Nations, Bebea Caffey; third row: Stephanie Ertle, Chesly Brooks, and Meta Walker. Not pictured are Ashley Taylor and Coby Carter. The leaders of GAs are Doris Hinton and Vicky Hancock. Lyn Nations is pastor.



Acteens of First Church, Tupelo, were recently honored with a recognition service using the theme "His Way Mine." Crown bearers, front row, left to right are Linsey Long, Karen Langford, and Amanda Nail. Acteens, second row, are Allison Newman; Kristen Langford, queen; third row, Amy Jensen; Alison Wallace, queen; Tracy Shannon; front row: Dana Chamblee, queen.

Katy Wallace is acteen director, and Doris Lumsden, leader.

Marilyn Mims, a native of Collins and graduate of the University of Southern Mississippi, was a winner of the 1986 Metropolitan Opera National Council Auditions. She was asked to study with Metropolitan Opera voice coaches and then to perform live from the Met stage. She also has contracts for three New York operatic debuts, including New York City Opera, Carnegie Hall, and the Metropolitan Opera House.

Mrs. Mims is the daughter of Louise Atwood and the late James Williamson. Her husband, Lloyd Mims, is on the music faculty of Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., formerly minister of music at Collins Church, and a specialist with the Church Music Department of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. She says, "We keep our house in Louisville and an apartment in New York."

Mrs. Peggy Brock was given a reception recently at First, Biloxi, on her 10th anniversary as preschool director.



Nelson

Julius E. Nelson, 83, has gone to Sunday School 26½ years without missing a Sunday, at New Hope Church, Monticello.



History was made at **Pearl Hill Church, Leake Association,** Aug. 30. During the evening service Eddie Pilgrim, pastor, baptized four people. Baptism was not new at the church, but baptism inside the church was a new experience. The baptistry was installed earlier this year. Before, the church baptized in a pond or river or borrowed another church's baptistry facility.

Frances Crawford, missionary nurse on a year's furlough from Honduras, is now living in the missionary residence of First Church, Long Beach. The address is 506 Jeff Davis Avenue, Long Beach 39560 (phone 868-8389).

Judy Bracken, journeyman to Liberia, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an elementary teacher (address: P. O. Box 1416, Mondrovia, Liberia). She was born in Richmond, Va., and considers Meridian, Miss., her hometown. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1987, she was a teacher at Nash Middle School, Smyrna, Ga.

Russell and Annette Herrington, missionaries to Costa Rica, are in the States for furlough (address: P. O. Box 1172, Rome, Ga. 30162). He is a native of Goodman, Miss., and she is the former Annette Horton of Rome.

Steve and Minnie Hicks, Baptist representatives to Mexico, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: Apartado 267, Cd. Satelite, Edo de Mexico, 53102). He is a native of Madisonville, La., and she is the former Minnie Greer of Poplarville, Miss.

Angie Williams, journeyman to Peru, has arrived on the field to begin her two-year term of service as an elementary teacher (for missionary children (address: Apartado 544, Chiclayo, Peru). She is a native of Birmingham, Ala. Before she was employed by the Foreign Mission Board in July 1967, she was an academic assistant in the department of housing at Mississippi State University.

James and Charlotte Watts, missionaries to Italy, may be addressed at Via Susini 6, 50125 Firenze, Italy. Natives of Mississippi, both grew up in Pascagoula. He was born in Philipp, and she, the former Charlotte Lowe, in Carthage.

Bill and Mirle Matheny, missionaries to Ecuador since 1985, recently resigned from missionary service. They served as seminary teachers in Quito, Ecuador. He is a native of Sterling, Ill., and she is the former Mirle Mathews of Vicksburg, Miss. They may be addressed at 3518 Mudlick Rd., S.W., Roanoke, Va. 24018.

Hugh and Debbie Redmon, missionaries to Venezuela, have arrived in the States for furlough (address: 322 College, Panama City, Fla. 32401). Son of Southern Baptist missionaries in Costa Rica, he was born in Jackson, Miss., and considers San Jose, Costa Rica, his hometown. Daughter of missionaries to the Ivory Coast, she was born in Fort Worth, Texas, and considers Abidjan, Ivory Coast, her hometown. They were appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1984.

David and Melissa Chism, missionaries to Ecuador, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Casilla 4725, Quito, Ecuador). He was born in Tupelo, Miss., and considers Sheffield, Ala., his hometown. She is the former Melissa Swain of Lake Charles, La.

Asbury and Hope Martin, missionaries to Argentina, have completed language study in Costa Rica and arrived on their field of service (address: Bolanos 141, 1407 Buenos Aires, Argentina). He was born in Columbia, S.C., and considers Cleveland, Miss., his hometown. She is the former Hope Clements of Corinth, Miss.

Payton and Helen Myers, missionaries to Nigeria, report a change of address (P. O. Box 396, Zaria, Nigeria). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Hazelhurst and grew up in Jackson; she is the former Helen Green of Prentiss.

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SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON COMMENTARIES

The new Jerusalem: the gates are never closed

By Rex Yancey

Revelation 21:1-5a, 21, 22; 22:1-2, 10-12, 17

John has seen the doom of the devil, the concilia, and the false prophet. Now, he sees the bliss of the blessed. The dream of a new heaven and new earth was ingrained in Jewish thought. "Behold," God said to Isaiah, "I will create new heavens and new earth; and the former things shall not be remembered, or come into mind" (65:17).



Yancey

Isaiah 66:22 speaks of a new heaven and new earth which God will make in which life will be one continual act of worship. The characteristics of Old Testament writings and intertestamental books are the same concerning heaven. Sorrow will be forgotten; sin is to be vanquished; darkness will cease; and the temporariness of time will turn into the everlastingness of eternity. This belief is a witness to the unquenchable immortal longings in a man's soul, his inherent sense of sin, and

BIBLE BOOK

his faith in God.

John catches a vision of the heavenly city. In that city there will be perfect fellowship with God (21:1-8). There will be the perfect protection of God (21:9-26). And there will be perfect provisions from God (22:1-5). See Ray Summers' *Worthy Is the Lamb*.

God manifested himself in the tabernacle of the Old Testament. He will tabernacle with his people in the new heaven and new earth throughout eternity. These suffering saints have had enough suffering, crying, pain, death, and separation on earth. Now all things are new.

The walls around ancient cities provided protection for the people. This wall symbolized perfect protection. The ancient cities had one gate which was closed at night or when an enemy approached. The new Jerusalem had twelve gates, a complete number. Moreover, these gates are never closed. The gates are made of pearl. The pearl came about as a result

of suffering.

We should not seek to measure the dimensions of the city to determine how many inhabitants it will hold. John is presenting the truth that the city is strong enough, spacious enough, perfect enough, and beautiful enough for God to dwell with his redeemed in perfect fellowship, forever.

The garden symbolizes the enjoyment and provisions God will provide for his people in the heavenly city. Water, food, and health are necessary for the sustenance of life. All three of these are provided in the heavenly city. God has all that is needed to supply eternal life for his redeemed ones.

There will be no prohibitions or handicaps to keep one from serving God in heaven. Christian folks, gear up for service. Our work in our local churches and communities are a foretaste of the service to come. Here we serve him in spirit. Then, we shall behold him face to face. What greater pleasure could one ask than the pleasure of serving God face to face?

Verse 17 issues the invitation for men to accept salvation in Jesus Christ. He is the key to

the new Jerusalem. The Spirit, the church, and the individual Christian invite all mankind to respond to this wonderful invitation.

Verse 18 is a warning to those who would cut out certain portions of the book. John wanted it preserved as he had written it.

I have wrestled with eschatology as does any serious Bible student. We need to remember that the study of schemes does not attribute to spiritual growth. That Jesus is coming again, that evil will be judged and doomed to hell, and that the saved will be with God in heaven forever are themes upon which we need to concentrate. Jesus did not put us on the time and place committee. He put us on the PUBLICITY committee.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain,
And has redeemed us to God by his blood,
To receive power, and riches and wisdom,
And might, and honor, and glory,
And blessing, and dominion,
Forever and ever.
"Amen, come, Lord Jesus!"

Rex Yancey is pastor, First, Quitman.

Glory-seekers: "Come, let us make a name for ourselves"

By Julian Fagan

Genesis 11:1-9

God had spared them. He had promised to bless them. His instructions were to "be fruitful and increase in number; multiply on the earth and increase upon it" (Gen. 9:7). It appears from our text that it was at least implied that the growth of the population was to include expansion over the earth and not concentration in a small area by a large number of people. The eight survivors of the flood spoke a common language through which they were readily able to communicate with one another. As the population grew, the people remained together, and as they moved eastward they settled in a large plain called Shinar (v. 2).



Fagan

It was here they made a collective decision not to scatter over the earth but instead to "make a name for themselves." The source of their reputation was to be a tower that reached to the heavens. After all, anyone who could build a tower to heaven would have direct access to heaven and its contents and could have great influence over all surrounding peoples; for that tower would be the obvious indication

of their influence, power; for that tower would be the obvious indication of their influence, power, and would bring immediate notoriety. They agreed. They used materials locally available, bricks and tar, and began their glory-seeker.

This structure was likely what archaeologists have discovered in areas of Mesopotamia, a ziggurat. It was a temple-tower which had a square base with sloping, stepped sides that led up to a shrine at the top. Such a tower may be what Jacob envisioned in his dream (Gen. 28:12). Ziggurats have been found at Larsa, Borsippa, Babylon, and Asshur. These structures, according to the names given by the various builders, were also intended to serve as staircases from earth to heaven. In a naked plain, such a structure would leave an awesome impression upon an observer. He would be impressed by the abilities of such a people and by their alleged access to heaven. If they could build an access to God, they would definitely make a name for themselves.

That they could not construct for themselves an access to heaven is obvious to Christians today, nevertheless, there are many Christians who are this very day out trying to make a name for themselves. The insight into the peo-

ple comes in v. 4, "Come, let us," they said. God had already given directions and promised blessings for following them. Yet their choice was "us." Notice that God's response is the same as the people's, "Come, let us" (v. 7). God opposed the self will of the people he had protected, directed, and blessed. God attacked and thwarted the efforts of people to go against his plan and purpose for them.

One might respond that such exercise of sovereignty is an unfair invasion of the entitlements of humanity. But, is it? These people had decided that all their problems would be solved if they just put together enough effort and acquired the right things. Enough notoriety and enough religion mixed together would be the best of all worlds, and it all could be achieved by their human efforts. Is that attitude not prevalent today? If one can get enough money, intelligence, and power, then he will be able to solve all problems, not the least of which is the lack of recognition.

Human achievement is so fragile. It is a passing fancy, a fading glory. Yet, the lesson must be relearned by each generation — that which truly lasts and is worthy of trust is commitment to God and to his purpose. Human effort is not the answer, obedience is. Look at what happened. God intervened and the efforts of man were totally confused. In their selfish

pride they sought to go against God and the result was bedlam. The point came when they could not even talk to each other.

These people were the children of Noah (11:2). They had been brought through the flood and saved from destruction, and then they tried to self-destruct through the exercise of pride and the promotion of self-glory. God loves us enough that he opposes such efforts. He will directly confront such efforts on the part of his people because he knows that such efforts are futile and only bring heartache and pain.

When God intervenes in such a direct way in human lives, the people stop building (v. 8), and are called upon to reevaluate their lives. God still opposes our human efforts to find notoriety and make a name for ourselves. Often the result is the same as at Babel, confusion and the inability to communicate with one another. As we look at all the confusion around us in our society and in so many personal lives, it appears that God is still coming down among us to confront our foolishness. It seems that one of the times that we turn to God is when we are so confused and no one else understands what we are trying to say. Would it not be so much better if we ceased trying to make a name for ourselves and lift up his? Doesn't he tell us that is where life is?

Julian Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.

UNIFORM

Be faithful to the Word: there's a crown waiting

By Al Finch

II Timothy 3:14-17

Living in the "Bible-belt" is a privilege. Public opinion favors the Bible. Traditionally we have our religious experiences from Biblical



Finch

studies. We own the Bible as a book. While conduct may belie its influence, churches hold the Bible as their sole authority of doctrine and practice.

Paul encouraged Timothy to remain faithful to the scriptures (II Timothy 3:14-17). The holy scripture had been taught Timothy since his childhood. Childhood is the place to begin teaching any discipline. Indoctrination began in childhood for the Hebrew, using the Old Testament. Any generation that ignores scriptural instruction and guidance is endangering future generations in religious ex-

LIFE AND WORK

perience. Paul gave three statements regarding his confidence in the scripture.

First, scripture is "able to make . . . wise unto salvation." No other book gives the plan for knowing God as definite and as well. The impartation of wisdom comes from the nature of the book itself. It is a record of God's self-revelation.

Again, all scripture is inspired ("God-breathed"). Actually reference may have been made to the Old Testament in this incident. Yet the Christian is justified in claiming this same uniqueness for the New Testament. Simply stated inspiration defines God as producer of the Scriptures. God was at work in religious history and in the record of that history as well. How this inspiration was done is not stated by

the Bible. Theories as to "how" are many. Any theory that makes the Bible the sole authority is sufficient. The greatest proof of inspiration is that beyond printed pages is personality. Read the Bible and discover God.

Third, scripture is "profitable." Its usefulness is seen in two areas. In "doctrine" refers to positive teaching and "reproof" is the negative aspect. The second area is ethical and moral. The Bible is useful in "correction" and "instruction." Again both negative and positive aspects are seen. II Timothy 3:17 gives the primary purpose. It is the maturing of the man of God, equipping him for "all good works."

If II Timothy 3:14-17 refers to the WORD, then II Timothy 4:1-8 refers to the WITNESS.

Paul charged Timothy in the truth of inspired scripture. "Therefore" indicated that the charge grew out of the passage that preceeded.

The charge is "before God, and the Lord Jesus Christ" (II Timothy 4:1). "Appearing" and "Kingdom" are future. Present faithfulness

is based on future glories.

The charge is to faithfulness (II Timothy 4:2). Five imperatives formulate the charge. "Preach the word" in which his life has been nurtured. "Be instant in season, out of season" is a call to old-fashioned faithfulness. Preach whether men listen or not. "Reprove," "rebuke" and "exhort" are positive and negative aspects of proclamation of the word. These imperatives must be practiced with patience and teaching.

The charge is urgent (II Timothy 4:3-5). Urgent because of a time coming when truth will not be received. II Timothy 4:4 describes people not only who will hear but twist truth to fiction.

Urgency is also seen in imminent departure of Paul. Paul's fight is over! This makes Timothy much more responsible. This advice of the aged warrior to his rather timid lieutenant is impressive. Now be faithful for there is a crown of righteousness for the faithful.

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.

Baptist Record

Baptists in 24 countries sponsor 250 missionaries

By Art Toalston

RICHMOND, Va. (BP) — Southern Baptists and other evangelicals in the United States are not the only ones sending out missionaries these days.

Baptists in two dozen countries sponsor 250 missionaries in 50 or more nations — up significantly from a decade ago.

In several countries, partnerships have been forged. Baptist churches in Sweden and Norway, for example, have sent numerous volunteer teams into Poland for preaching, choral presentations, and church construction.

The foreign missions involvement of Baptist conventions and unions overseas is "one of the brightest lights of missions of tomorrow," says Clark Scanlon, the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board's director of research and planning. "These growing Christians have captured a world vision God meant for all his children."

Jamaica is one of those countries involved in foreign missions, with a couple assigned to Grenada. In fact, since the Jamaica Baptist Missionary Society was formed in 1842 "to preach the gospel in Africa, Central America, the Caribbean and the world," its 50-plus appointees have worked in 12 countries.

Setting the pace are Brazilian Baptists. More than 100 of their missionaries work in 16 countries under a Board of World Missions. The convention also has appointed 430 home missionaries. And volunteer efforts have included medical teams traveling to several neighboring countries.

"I'm not saying we don't need (Southern Baptist) missionaries," says one Brazilian seminary teacher. "But if anything happened and they were no longer here, we could proceed with the work."

Brazilian Baptists sent their first missionaries to Portugal in 1911 and added Bolivia as their second mission field in 1946, assigning Waldomiro and Lidia Motto there. Motto was jailed briefly in 1948 for preaching the gospel during an era of religious persecution.

When political strife prompted various evangelical missionaries, including a Southern Baptist couple, to leave the African country of Mozambique in the 1970s, Brazilian Baptist missionary Valnice Milhomens Coalho,

a single woman, was able to continue working there 15 years.

Southern Baptists are just now re-establishing work in the country. In Angola, another African country where similar strife occurred, Brazilian Baptists were able to re-enter the country in 1983, three years before Southern Baptists could.

In Venezuela and Colombia, two new Baptist congregations are led by a Brazilian couple and a Southern Baptist couple. Brazilian Calixto Patricio enjoys the teamwork with Southern Baptist Mike Glenn in Venezuela. He believes they complement each other. "I'm the type to jump in," Patricio says, "and Mike is more the type to analyze."

Most of the 16 countries where Brazilian Baptists work were added during the 1980s. Most appointees are church planters. The largest numbers of missionaries are in Paraguay, about 20, and Portugal, about a dozen.

Smaller numbers are involved in missions programs of other Baptist conventions or unions. Scottish Baptists, for example, have 15 missionaries in Zaire, where Southern Baptists have but one couple. Fifteen other Scottish Baptists are spread among India, Bangladesh, Nepal, Tanzania, and Brazil. About 20 Norwegian Baptists are in Zaire and two in Nepal. Three couples representing Japan's Baptists are in Indonesia, and one couple is preparing to work in Brazil. Six South African Baptist missionaries are spread among Israel, Malawi, and Belgium.

Ten Baptist unions in Europe, cooperating through the European Baptist Mission, have nearly 70 missionaries in three African countries, including Cameroon and the Republic of Central Africa, where Southern Baptists have no personnel. About 10 European missionaries are in three South American countries.

In a few European Baptist unions, church members give more per capita for missionary work than Southern Baptists. And if Southern Baptists sent out missionaries in the same proportion to church membership as Australian Baptists do, SBC missionaries overseas would number more than 47,000.

Art Toalston writes for the Foreign Mission Board.



Joy knows no happiness

Ayo's first birthday may be her last. The lack of proper nourishment is taking its toll on this 10-pound little girl whose name means joy. Missionary nurse Sharron Hawk hopes her mother has brought her to Kersey Children's Home soon enough to bring her back to health and happiness. (BP) PHOTO By Don Rutledge

Book Reviews

THE SUCCESS FACTOR: DISCOVER GOD'S POTENTIAL THROUGH REALITY THINKING. Hart, Archibald D., Old Tappan, New Jersey: Revell, 1984.

So, another book on how to make it to the top? Not exactly.

The author is currently dean of the Graduate School of Psychology at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, CA. The book is centered around the thesis that success is finding God's will for your life and getting in it.

Dr. Hart doesn't offer any positive thinking formulas, he simply leads the readers to understand who they are, to be realistic about making goals in light of who they are, and then strive to be all they can be for the glory and praise of God. This is success according to the author! — Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor of Providence Church, Meadville.

NOTHING BUT THE BLOOD. Smith, Bailey E. Nashville: Broadman, 1987.

Most pastors and staff members are very familiar with the author of this book. Dr. Bailey Smith was formerly the pastor of the First Southern Baptist Church, Del City, Okla. He is now president of Real Evangelism.

The book is composed of 12 chapters. Each contains a sermon on

the death of Christ. I've read several of Dr. Smith's books and this, in my opinion is not one of his best. It does however, contain a wealth of illustrative material.

A good book but not great. — Reviewed by Greg Potts, Pastor, Providence Baptist Church, Meadville.

SCRAPBOOK

Troy E. Leach, Jr. of Blue Springs who sang both country and gospel. says that in the 1930 years he was lead guitarist and lead singer in a group who sang both country and gospel. "World War II came along and stopped it," he recalls. "I wrote our songs. Now I write these songs and put a melody to them and sing them in our church here at Blue Springs."

Our heavenly home

Do you want yourself a mansion,
When your race on earth is run?
Do you want a home in heaven,
Way beyond the setting sun?
If you'll listen to me, people,
I can tell you what to do.
Put your trust in Christ our savior.
And he'll save your soul for you.

Our savior is now begging you,
To trust his holy name.
If you ask him he will help you now,
To put sin to its shame.
He's standing there with arms outstretched,
To show us the right way.
So let's follow in his footsteps,
To a heavenly home some day.

The Lord sent Jesus down to earth,
To open up the trail.
And if we put our trust in him,
We'll find it without fail.
Then we will know a greater love,
Than any tongue can tell.
There will be a home in heaven,
Where we'll ring our golden bell.

Old Satan tries to tell us,
That the Bible isn't so.
That there's no such place as heaven,
And we've got no place to go.
But pay no attention to Satan,
And his lies and his deceit.
Let's all put our trust in Jesus,
And we'll walk that golden street.

—Troy E. Leach, Jr.
Blue Springs

Baptist Record

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NASHVILLE
TN 37203

Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205

September 24, 1987

"I was hungry and ye fed me..."



**Observe Cooperative Program Month
October**

A worldview

The Baptist Courier, state paper of the South Carolina Baptist Convention, presented the following scenario:

Of 100 people, randomly selected from the world, 47 would be illiterate — 1 would have a college degree.

67 would be poor — 33 would be financially comfortable.

50 would be homeless or live in substandard housing — 2 would own both a house and car.

35 would be hungry and malnourished.

22 would claim the Christian faith.

Southern Baptists must combine their gifts and prayers to accomplish a witness to the world. Millions of dollars in funds are urgently needed at home and overseas to reach our Bold Mission Thrust goal of sharing the gospel with everyone on earth by A.D. 2000. Funds are needed to underwrite the ministries of the thousands who want to go and the over 7,000 who are already serving at home and overseas.

The Cooperative Program, the lifeline of missions, offers Southern Baptists the best channel for meeting this challenge.

"The Cooperative Program, as the lifeline of missions, offers Southern Baptists the best channel for meeting these (foreign missions) needs on a long term basis."

—KEITH PARKS as quoted in
Cooperation: The Baptist Way to a Lost World

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 1, 1987

Published Since 1877

King James is still first; New King James is second

Of the 93% of all Americans that own at least one Bible, 42% own a King James Bible, while 21% own a New King James Version, say the results of a new nationwide study conducted by the Barna Research Group of Glendale, Calif.

The Barna Research Group's news release dated September 9 reports that one of the oldest English translations is still the number one selling Bi-

ble, the King James Version, originally translated in 1611. The second most popular is one of the newest translations, the New King James Version, completed in 1982.

The publisher of the New King James Version, Thomas Nelson, confirms that the version has rapidly gained acceptance, stating that its sales are up 52% from fiscal 1986.

The New King James New Testament was published in 1979, and the

complete Bible in 1982, after seven years' work by an interdenominational team of 130 scholars.

The same family of manuscripts used in translating the 1611 King James were used to produce the New King James Version. In addition, the New King James also contains an extensive set of footnotes showing variant readings from other manuscript sources for comparison.

Graham postpones trip to China

TOKYO, Japan (EP) — Billy Graham postponed his first-ever visit to China after suffering a fall which fractured one rib and reinjured others, shortly after arriving in Tokyo en route to Japan.

Several days after he arrived in Tokyo, Graham got up during the night and stumbled over a briefcase in the dark, according to Larry Ross, a public relations representative for Graham. He fell on his left side, resulting in "compounded difficulties," said Ross, since he has broken his ribs several times in recent

years. Graham is reportedly in extreme pain from the injury.

Graham was confined to bed, although not hospitalized. He was under supervision of three Tokyo doctors and planned to go to the Mayo Clinic, Rochester, Minn. after several days of recuperation when he became able to travel.

"This is one of the greatest disappointments of my life," Graham said, adding that he was especially looking forward to accompanying his wife to the place where she was born and lived until she was 17.

Graham just completed a series of seven major crusades during the past five months. The most recent meetings concluded August 30 in Helsinki, Finland, and was the largest religious event in the country's history.

The evangelist was invited to China by The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and The China Christian Council. He was scheduled to speak at several churches and three universities, as well as meet with some of the religious and political leaders of China.



'Sound barrier' falls for deaf pastor

Volunteer missionaries David and Marsha Mitchell (right) discuss their ministry to deaf Puerto Ricans with Rodney Webb (standing) and Carter Bearden, both of the Home Mission Board's language missions division. Mitchell was pastor of a church in Tennessee before he lost his hearing. The Mit-

chells now participate in Mission Service Corps, the Southern Baptist volunteer missions program, and they have founded a church for deaf people in Ponce, Puerto Rico. (BP photo by Michael Largent)

SBC housing form, page 8 (Postmark Oct. 1)

**SOUTHERN BAPTIST HISTORICAL
LIBRARY AND ARCHIVES
Historical Commission, SBC
Nashville, Tennessee**

Editorials . . . by Don McGregor

Our cooperative ministry

The "Go ye" statements in the Bible have been taken seriously by Southern Baptists, and 62 years ago the vehicle for involving all Southern Baptists in the "Go ye" effort was fashioned and adopted.

The Cooperative Program came into existence in 1925 during the Southern Baptist Convention in Memphis, and since that time it has been the pipeline for transferring the energy of Southern Baptists through monetary resources to missionaries all over the world, where the energy is translated into actions and witnessing.

Through the Cooperative Program all Southern Baptists are able to go in to the farthest reaches of the world by providing the financing that makes it possible to carry a witness of salvation into those areas.

In 1976 in Norfolk, Va., Bold Mission Thrust was presented to the Southern Baptist Convention and adopted. In 1977 in Kansas City, Mo., it was launched. The idea is to make a saving witness possible for every person on the earth by the year 2000. Of course, we have already missed a lot of them. They died before we could get to them. Other new ones have come on the

scene, but we are not keeping up.

Nevertheless, we are working on goals that will help us in our effort to witness to all the world. In 1976 we had 35,073 churches. By 2000 we want to have 50,000. Through 1986, the latest figures available, we had 37,116. Bold Mission Thrust has been in operation for 10 years, and there are only 13 more years left. We've gained only 2,000, and we have 13,000 to go.

We are doing better in church-type missions. In 1976 we had 1,800. Through 1986 we had 5,000. Added to the more than 37,000 churches, the church-type missions sends the total to more than 42,000.

In 1976 we had 2,492 home missionaries, and we want to have 5,000 by 2000. Through 1986 we had 3,637. In 1976 we had 2,700 foreign missionaries, and we want 5,000 by 2000. At the end of 1986 we had 3,756.

Our goal is to be witnessing in 125 nations by the year 2000. Our fields have grown from 84 in 1976 to 110 in 1986.

October is Cooperative Program Month. It certainly is fitting that Southern Baptists should establish a time period for calling attention to the ministry that the Cooperative Pro-

gram has for us. Actually, we perform the ministry. The Cooperative Program is the vehicle through which it is performed.

Through the Cooperative Program all Southern Baptists can be involved in carrying the gospel to the lost wherever they are. There are always new generations coming on the scene, however, and it is possible that some may read these lines who do not know how the Cooperative Program is operated. It is a simple concept, but it has profound repercussions. First the individual determines what his contribution to his own church will be and makes that contribution. He then participates, if he wants to, in determining how much the church will send beyond its own field to be used in mission work. The church sends its agreed-on amount out to the state convention. Money from churches all over the state is gathered in the offices of the state convention, and the amount to be sent on to the Southern Baptist Convention is determined in the annual state convention. That amount, usually a percentage, is sent on to Southern Baptist Convention offices; and at the annual Southern Baptist Convention the determination

is made as to how it is to be used. Messengers to the convention decide what percentage will go to foreign missions, what percentage will go to missions work in the United States, and the percentage that will go to other causes that are agreed on during the convention.

It is a simple plan, but it carries the

message of salvation throughout the world. The Bible says, "Go ye," and Southern Baptists respond. Some go in person. Others go through the sending of their money. The Cooperative Program allows those to go who send their money and provides the means of support for those who go in person.

It is a biblical ministry.

Reach the Lost: Give

LK 24-47

神愛世
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"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life."
John 3:16

Cooperative
Program
Month
In
October

Guest opinion . . .

Evangelize through cooperation

By Jerry L. Austin

The story of evangelization by Southern Baptists through the Cooperative Program can be heard from around the world as in one Tanzanian association where 4,000 to 7,000 professions of faith occur annually.

One of the highlights of this year's annual report of the Foreign Mission Board presented still another breakthrough in the board's history. There were 185,689 baptisms reported in 1986, or more than 50 baptisms per missionary, or one baptism for every 11 overseas church members. In an average week, 3,570 believers were baptized and 20 new churches and chapels were begun. These figures illustrate what missionaries, overseas Baptists, and Baptists at home can accomplish when they work together. Southern Baptists evangelize in more than 110 countries where more than 3,600 missionaries are supported through the Cooperative Program and the Lottie Moon Christmas offering.

The 1987-88 Cooperative Program Operating Budget-Phase 1 includes 50 percent for the Foreign Mission Board, 19.54 percent for

the Home Mission Board, 4.09 percent for the Radio & Television Commission, 20.32 percent for the six Southern Baptist seminaries, and 6.05 percent for the Executive Committee, The Christian Life Commission, the Stewardship Commission, the Education Commission, the Southern Baptist Foundation, the Annuity Board, and the Brotherhood Commission.

Irma Duke of the Foreign Mission Board tells of more than 1,600 people being baptized during one year as the result of a film ministry in Korea. Using an old, noisy, 16mm film projector, the witnesses went from place to place showing evangelistic films in a tent.

In six months missionary Rolla Bradley saw 750 soldiers baptized through evangelistic efforts among the military in South Korea.

Because of the way Baptists meet physical needs in Pusan, South Korea, the city government recently requested an expansion of the Wallace Memorial Baptist Hospital. In response, three new floors with about 100 beds have been added to bring its capacity to 450 beds. More than 13,000

outpatients and 1,300 inpatients were treated in the past year. Some 5,000 people were witnessed to per month; and, of those, almost 200 made professions of faith.

Yes, Cooperative Program-supported missionaries are seeing the fruits of their faithfulness in witnessing, teaching, and ministering.

In order to inform, inspire, and involve congregations in this worldwide task of sharing the gospel with everyone by the year 2000, Southern Baptists have set aside October as a time to celebrate the ministries they support through the Cooperative Program. It is a time to refresh our commitment to the accomplishment of the Great Commission.

A former editor of Home Life magazine, Rueben Herring, tells of his sick little grandson at the doctor's office. The physician recommended a "shot." As the nurse brought the "shot" into the room, the child exclaimed, "That's not for me!"

Evangelization to the ends of the earth through the Cooperative Program — that's for me.

James L. Austin is vice president, Cooperative Program Promotion, Stewardship Commission, SBC.

Public confidence grows for organized religion

PRINCETON, N.J. (EP) — Public confidence in organized religion has rebounded, despite the PTL scandal, but the church has still not recaptured the primacy it enjoyed for years as the most trusted institution in the U.S.

According to Gallup polls, 61 percent of those polled in 1987 said they had "a great deal" or "a lot" of confidence in the church or organized religion, up from 57 percent in 1986. The church tied with the military in this year's poll; the military had a 63 percent confidence rating last year. In 1979 and in 1983 the church was the most trusted institution in the nation.

Following the church and military in this year's poll were the U.S. Supreme Court (52 percent), banks (50 percent), public schools (50 percent), newspapers (31 percent), television (28 percent), and organized labor (26 percent).

Senate committee approves revenue foregone subsidy

WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee has approved a level of federal funding that would keep postal rates for non-profit publications, including Baptist state newspapers and some church newsletters, at current levels through September 1988.

The committee included \$517 million for revenue foregone, which subsidizes reduced postal rates for non-profit mailers, in its Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill. A

Postal Service spokesman said non-profit rates could go up before September 1988 if a general rate increase is instituted.

The subsidy approved by the Senate panel matches that included in the House-approved Treasury-Postal Service appropriations bill. Although that bill contained \$556.5 million for the Postal Service, only \$517 million was designated for revenue foregone.

The appropriations bill now must be approved by the full Senate.

The Baptist Record

VOLUME 111

(ISSN-0005-5778)

NUMBER 33

Published weekly except weeks of July 4 and Christmas. Subscription \$7.35 a year payable in advance. Second class postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of Southern Baptist Press Association.

Editor Don McGregor
Associate Editor Tim Nicholas
Assistant Editor Anne McWilliams
Advertising Coordinator Evelyn Keyes
Editorial Assistant Florence Larrimore
Circulation Assistant Renee Walley
Financial Records Betty Anne Bailey
Computer Operator Irene Martin

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: Martha Chambless, Oxford; Ferrell O. Cork Jr., Aberdeen; Marcus Finch, Meridian, chairman; Odean Puckett, Natchez; Gary Holland, Pascagoula; Joel Haire, Crystal Springs; Ex officio, Evelyn Keyes, Jackson, secretary.

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Leaders from 20 of the world's largest missions organizations and interdenominational groups met Sept. 17-18 in Dallas to look for ways to work together in evangelizing the world. They called on Christians worldwide to join in a day of fasting and prayer before Pentecost Sunday each year to focus on reaching the world for Christ before A.D. 2000. Among the participants were (left to right) Edward Dayton, from World Vision International; R. Keith Parks, Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board; William Bright, Campus Crusade for Christ, International; and Robert Bowman, Far East Broadcasting Co., Inc. (BP) PHOTO By Van Payne.

Sports evangelism fellowship organizes

By Jim Burton

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (BP) — The National Fellowship of Baptists in Sports has been organized by a strategy steering committee of the National Fellowship of Baptist Men.

The new fellowship is the first Southern Baptist effort to organize laypeople from throughout the Southern Baptist Convention to use sports for missions and evangelism, said Mississippian Larry Cox, associate director of the Baptist Men's group.

The purpose of the fellowship is to present the gospel of Jesus Christ in the United States and abroad through sports. Strategies will be developed to use sports in missions to present the gospel and provide a network for matching resources with requests, Cox said.

Strategy steering committee member Lee Nelson of Tallahassee, Fla., is in his first year of retirement after spending 11 seasons with the St. Louis Cardinals of the National Football League. This his first opportunity to be involved with a denominational sports evangelism/missions effort. He said:

"For me, just to be able to get to a group like this and see something

grow is neat because here are a lot of opportunities out there. Sports has been my life, and it is an opportunity to spread the word."

Organizers of the Kentucky Baptist Sports Crusaders, which recently sent a basketball team to Kenya on a mission trip, attended the strategy steering committee meeting.

"We played 13 ball games and put on about 15 clinics, all used to share our faith in Jesus Christ with the people of the nation of Kenya," said Larry Pursiful, minister of activities at Carlisle Avenue Church, Louisville, Ky., and co-director of the Kentucky group.

"We saw wonderful results. There were about 600 decisions for Christ while we were there, and it did wonders for our guys that went," added Pursiful, who was captain of the 1962 University of Kentucky basketball team.

"Sports is a nationwide language," continued Pursiful. "Everyone loves sports, everywhere. Why not use it to witness?"

A softball team also has been organized in Kentucky and has played (Continued on page 7)

McBride accepts position as Shelby County's DOM

John McBride, director of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board's Cooperative Missions Department, has been named director of missions for Shelby County which encompasses the city of Memphis.

McBride, a Jackson native, will begin work on Oct. 1.

He is a graduate of Mississippi College, New Orleans Seminary, and McCormick Seminary in Chicago.

McBride has been pastor of Vaiden Church and Lake Como Church, Bay Springs, plus several student pastorates and has served as director of missions for Jasper, Bolivar, and Rankin Counties, and was director of ministries for Jackson County.

McBride also worked in rural urban missions for the Home Mission Board and was executive director of the Commission on Religion in Appalachia.

McBride and his wife, the former Lynn Luster, have four grown children.

World missions leaders seek ways to accelerate spread of the gospel

By Bob Stanley and Orville Scott

DALLAS (BP) — In an unprecedented meeting, leaders of 20 of the world's largest missions organizations and interdenominational groups sought ways Sept. 17-18 to work together in accelerating the spread of the gospel to all people.

As the first step, they called on Christians worldwide to join in 24 hours of prayer and fasting just before Pentecost Sunday each year as a "focused intercession for global evangelization" between now and A.D. 2000.

The period of prayer would begin at 6 p.m. Friday and end at 6 p.m. Saturday.

"From time zone to time zone, it could become a chain of prayer and fasting encircling the earth," the statement said.

The missions leaders also made tentative plans for a consultation early next year in which experts will explore the kinds of research information available about the unevangelized people of the world and whether a common data base could be set up that all could share.

At a press conference concluding the interdenominational Global Missions Conference, several leaders said one of the most valuable benefits of the meeting was "just getting to know

each other." Jerry White, general director of the Navigators, said this means that if conflicts or needs arise, the leaders can pick up the phone and talk to someone they already know.

R. Keith Parks, president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board, said he is convinced global evangelization is an attainable goal if Christians commit themselves to all that is necessary to carry out Jesus' Great Commission to take the gospel to all people.

"We're not just talking about something. We really believe it can happen and should happen in our day," he said.

The Second Front Page

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

Thursday, October 1, 1987

Published Since 1877

Evangelism Conference to take place at Parkway

The 1988 Mississippi Baptist Evangelism Conference will take place Feb. 1-3 at Parkway Church in Jackson.

Next year's conference is a departure from recent years when it was combined with a Bible Conference. The Sunday School Department, which co-sponsored the Evangelism-Bible Conference, will hold a separate Sunday School Convention in April.

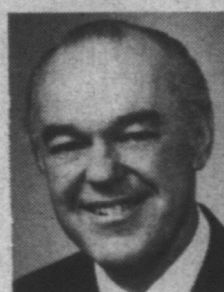
The Evangelism Conference in 1988 will have only preaching and singing unlike earlier conferences which included sessions on theology and practical applications of evangelistic principles, according to Guy Henderson, director of the Evangelism Department of the convention board, which sponsors the meeting.

Speakers for the meeting include Perry Sanders, who opens it at 7 p.m., Feb. 1, to O.S. Hawkins who closes out at 10:40 a.m. Feb. 3. Sanders is pastor of First Church, Lafayette and was elected last week to a spot on the SBC Peace Committee by the SBC Executive Committee. Hawkins is pastor of First Church, Ft. Lauderdale, and is a 1985 president of the Southern Baptist Pastors' Conference.

Musicians for the conference will be Russell Newport of St. Louis who is a professional tenor soloist with 10 years on the road.

Other speakers include Manuel Scott Jr., Frank Pollard, Tom Elliff, Esther Burroughs, John Bramlett, and the president of the Home Mission Board, Larry Lewis.

Scott is pastor of Saint John Missionary Baptist Church in Dallas. Pollard is pastor of First Church,



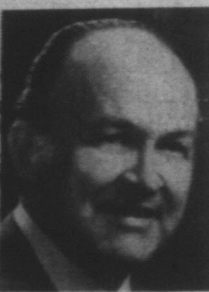
Sanders



Lewis



Pollard



Newport



Scott



Hawkins



Bramlett



Burroughs

Jackson. Elliff is pastor of First Southern Church, Del City, Okla., and a former missionary to Zimbabwe. Burroughs is national evangelism consultant for women for the Home Mission Board. Bramlett is a former professional football player for Denver, Miami, New England, and Atlanta, now a Christian lecturer.

Testimonies during the conference include messages that relate to church renewal, revival, Continuing Witness Training, and Bold New Growth which is a promotional plan for starting new units of any type in a church.

Theme of the Evangelism Conference will be "Equipping the Laity in Evangelism."



Elliff

Christian Life Commission narrows reasons for abortion, withdraws women's pamphlets

NASHVILLE (BP) — Abortion is justifiable only "when the developing child represents a clear and present danger to the physical life of the mother," Southern Baptist Christian Life Commission members declared during their annual meeting Sept. 16.

The abortion statement, part of a broader recommendation regarding sanctity of human life, was one of several measures commissioners approved in a move to regulate staff activities and programs of the ethics agency.

They also withdrew two pamphlets on the role of women and set guidelines for materials which will replace them; adopted a statement on AIDS; restructured the CLC budget to give greater priority to anti-abortion efforts; created a guideline giving commissioners greater editorial input on pamphlet series; asked for a study of the procedure of conducting business by telephone, including the election of staff members; and suggested a study of the feasibility of twice-yearly, rather than annual, meetings.

All the measures to regulate administrative procedure were passed the day following a motion to dismiss N. Larry Baker as executive director failed by a 15-15 vote. Most of the regulatory moves were approved by about a three-to-two margin.

The sanctity of human life statement — which addresses both abortion and euthanasia — declares, "Human life, from fertilization until natural death, is sacred and should be protected, not destroyed." It decries abortion, infanticide, and "active" euthanasia.

The statement calls on staff: to give anti-abortion and anti-euthanasia concerns highest priority in budget and personnel assignments for at

least the next two years, to assist the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board in developing alternatives to abortion for women facing a problem pregnancy, to oppose infanticide and euthanasia, and to refrain from releasing any materials produced by the commission that are not consistent with the policy statement.

Charles Wade, pastor of First Church, Arlington, Texas, failed in an attempt to substitute a statement on abortion passed by a diverse group of Southern Baptists during a CLC-sponsored abortion consultation in June.

"The (June) statement from St. Louis goes beyond exceptions" to abortion, Wade said. "With this (St. Louis) guideline, I can talk and counsel with people and work towards alternatives to abortion. The St. Louis statement will help Southern Baptists. It is a beautiful statement." He said that since the St. Louis statement denounces abortion but does not mention exceptions for abortion, it provides an opportunity for broad support.

The motion on the role of women withdrew "Issues and Answers: Changing Roles of Women" and "Critical Issues: Women in Church and Society" from circulation. It also called for CLC staff to produce new materials on women's roles by September 1988. The new materials are to reflect the 1984 Southern Baptist Convention resolution titled "Ordination and the Role of Women in Ministry."

That SBC resolution interprets Scripture as excluding women from pastoral leadership and says "God's delegated order of authority" includes "Christ as the head of man and man as the head of woman." It also states that "women are not in public worship to assume a role of authority over

men lest confusion reign in the local church" and "to preserve a submission required because the man was first in creation and the woman was first in the Edenic Fall."

Skeet Workman, homemaker from Lubbock, Texas, who originated the motion to withdraw the literature, said the pamphlet on changing roles of women contains inaccurate statements: "The pamphlet says the Equal Rights Amendment was designed to guarantee constitutionally that equal rights under the law would not be denied anyone because of sex, and that is false. The No. 1 reason of the women's rights movement was the passage of the ERA, which would lead to legalization of homosexuality, abortion, and many other things . . ."

Takes issue

Workman took issue with the pamphlet on women in church and society, particularly for its statement that some women have suffered discrimination in churches. "I think if this brochure were given to a young homemaker in a Southern Baptist church and she reads it, she will begin to get the idea that there is discrimination among us as Southern Baptists," she said.

Wade and Don Blanton, an engineer from Bel Air, Md., pleaded with commissioners not to base their actions on the 1984 resolution, noting resolutions are not binding on SBC institutions. "As Baptists, we are not governed by resolutions; we are governed by Scripture," Wade said.

Focusing on AIDS — acquired immune deficiency syndrome — commissioners adopted a statement that commended the staff "for their efforts to date in this regard" and urged increased energy in the development of materials on AIDS.

"We call upon the CLC staff to produce literature which sounds a clear call to sexual purity, not simply from health concerns, but because of biblical, ethical principles," their AIDS statement says. Previously, they passed a committee recommendation concerning development of new audiovisual and printed resources on AIDS.

Abortion re-surfaced during an administrative committee discussion of the 1987-88 CLC budget. That budget — \$1,040,600, which includes SBC Cooperative Program income of \$795,100 and \$150,000 from the sale of ethics resources — was approved. Internally, the administrative committee took \$20,000 from two general line item accounts to create a new line item account giving priority to initiatives on abortion and euthanasia.

In an unprecedented move, the CLC promotion committee asked for and received permission to review and respond to "future printed materials in pamphlet series" prior to their publication.

In other business, commissioners: — Approved a response to the SBC Peace Committee from the CLC executive director that confirms the executive director and professional staff of the commission have been and will continue to be committed to work within the framework of the Baptist Faith and Message Statement.

— Authorized a Cooperative Program request of \$984,855 for 1988-89. The request includes a 5 percent price index adjustment and a special request of \$150,000 for establishing a CLC office in Washington. The establishment of a Washington moral concerns office was encouraged by an SBC Executive Committee fact-finding committee that studied the work of the Baptist Joint Committee. — Approved a request to the SBC

for approval of a proposed change in the CLC program statement that would remove language requiring the agency to work through the Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs when working on Christian moral concerns in Washington.

— Voted to give the CLC Distinguished Service Award to Doug and Evelyn Knapp, missionaries to Tanzania, and to Samuel T. Currin, U.S. attorney for the eastern district of North Carolina and chairman of the SBC Public Affairs Committee.

The Knapps were cited for their 23 years of work in agricultural missions and race relations, as well as for the 14,409 baptisms during the 1986 church year in the remote Kyela District of Tanzania.

Currin was nominated for the award by Gary Crum as an addition to the CLC executive committee's nomination of the Knapps. Crum cited Currin's active leadership in the fight against drugs and pornography.

— Approved a statement commending President Reagan for his role in reducing the federal government's role in abortions.

— Authorized annual seminars in Kansas City, Mo., for 1989 on "Life in the Balance" and Birmingham, Ala., in 1990 on "Combatting Moral Problems" and annual conferences at Ridgecrest (N.C.) and Glorieta (N.M.) Baptist conference centers in 1988 on Christian moral concerns.

— Approved conferences or consultations in the coming year on abortion, pornography, gambling, race relations, and medical ethics.

Contributing to this article were Tim Fields of the CLC staff, Dan Martin and Marv Knox of the Baptist Press central office, and Greg Warner of the Florida Baptist Witness, representing the Southern Baptist Press Association.

Ephesus, Forest, celebrates 100th with brush arbor

By Mrs. Kenneth Jones



Pictured at a brush arbor musical dressed in clothing from long ago are members of Ephesus Church, Forest, at its centennial celebration.

Today as I walked among the oak trees and sat under the old bush arbor where just a few days ago over 200 people of Ephesus talked, laughed, and reminisced, I truly feel a sweet, sweet spirit in this place.

The ladies dressed in long dresses and bonnets, (Some even in more dressy clothes and hats from grandma's trunk.) and the men in overalls and string ties.

All day some of the men had labored over the pork, beef and chicken barbeque. Whole hams and quarters of beef kept the air full of delicious smells all day.

Around 5 o'clock the people started coming with more and more food to go with the barbecued meat. The long table was spread under the old oak trees. Prayer of thanksgiving by pastor Kenneth Jones and then the feast. After the choir finished they eased away to prepare for the musical "The Brush Arbor Meeting," directed by Don Gomillion.

They sang out on "Precious Memories" here under the brush ar-

bor. I'd never worshipped in one before, but I have heard many stories about the brush arbor churches from my parents who met in a brush arbor service 54 years ago.

On Sunday, July 19, Ephesus Church started celebrating its centennial year. After many songs by the choir and individuals Jones reminisced on things of the past both serious and funny, and then brought an uplifting message. Then Willie Lee Culpepper came forward and told of the "Angel Unaware" and many other memories.

We heard about the time the KKK came to Ephesus, a shooting, and many other happenings all during the week. Many pictures, slides and videos were shown after the night services. The old fellowship hall was full of relics and antiques of the past years.

A display of 26 quilts made by the Ephesus quilters was shown.

And a 35-page booklet the centennial committee compiled for each person was distributed.

Former pastors who came to celebrate with us and bring the messages were Kenneth Jones, Hubert Gardner, Albert McMullen, Marvin Bibb, Edward Pendergrast, and I. L. Hill.

Two young men who have given their lives to the Lord's ministry from our church are Kevin Jones (minister) and Mark Jones (music minister.) Kevin is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Keith Jones and Mark is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Jones.

A gospel group from the church, Cindy Haralson, Carol Ann Jones and Johnnie Cook, had the service Sunday night after the baptismal service.

Sunday morning the "Ephesians" brought the message in song. Several years ago they formed a gospel group here as little children. They went around the country singing and now after about 10 or more years they came back for the reunion. They are Carol Ann Jones, Joyce Everett, Ann Jones, Janet Culpepper, and Mark Jones. Barry Phillips was also a member of this group.

Understand Baptists, Bennett asks pope

By Marv Knox

COLUMBIA, S.C. (BP) — The cause of Christ would be improved if Roman Catholics would seek to understand Southern Baptist missionaries, a Southern Baptist leader told the pope Sept. 11.

Harold C. Bennett, president and treasurer of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee, and Carolyn Weatherford, executive director of the convention's Woman's Missionary Union, were among 27 non-Catholic U.S. religious leaders who met with Pope John Paul II on the campus of the University of South Carolina.

Following the presentation of papers by the non-Catholics and the pope, Bennett was one of four Americans to address the pontiff.

"One of the pope's major points had to do with Christian unity," Bennett said. "I prefaced what I said by noting the Roman Catholic Church is promoting a program of outreach, and I paralleled that with a report on Southern Baptists' Bold Mission Thrust — our effort to share the gospel with the whole world by the year 2000.

"I told him: Southern Baptists have mission work in 111 countries of the world. In some of these countries, there is a need for better relations between Roman Catholics and our own missionaries. I feel this would give a much more positive witness for Christ if relationships could be improved."

The pope did not get to respond to verbal comments presented to him, Bennett said.

Both Bennett and Weatherford have been criticized by some Southern Baptists who have said they should not grant an audience with the Catholic leader. In fact, a member of the SBC Executive Committee, during last week's Nashville meeting of the committee, asked to have placed on the February 1988 meeting's docket a motion to require Executive Committee staffers to receive Executive Committee permission before attending ecumenical meetings in the future.

Bennett told Baptist Press that five reasons compelled him to participate:

— "A Southern Baptist should be present for such a meeting and to talk about the state of Christian churches in the United States, since the Southern Baptist Convention is the largest non-Catholic denomination in America.

— "Article 14 of the Baptist Faith and Message is on cooperation between Christian denominations. I interpret the Baptist Faith and Message as having a friendly spirit toward other religious groups.

— "I believe it was important for the pope to be told that we have missionaries in 111 countries and that he be told about the need for improved relations between Roman Catholics and our missionaries.

— "Prior to the meeting, I talked with R. Keith Parks (president of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board) and asked if my participation would hurt Southern Baptist foreign mission work. His response was that it would not. I also asked if my participation could be helpful to our mission efforts. He said that it would — that it's always good to build relationships and that this could help our missionaries.

— "It is important for me to develop a better understanding of the Roman Catholic Church, which this meeting afforded."

Marv Knox is BP feature editor.

Youth's spiritual decisions tabbed

NASHVILLE (BP) — A total of 4,201 public decisions concerning personal relationships with Jesus Christ were made through Southern Baptist Centrifuge camps and church recreation conferences during the summer.

At Centrifuge youth camps, a total of 4,073, or about 16 percent of participants made public decisions.



Flynt Jones, a student at Mississippi College, spent his last summer with a Mississippi student revival team traveling throughout the Northwest Baptist Convention. Jones, a junior of the college, died of leukemia September 15.

College student spends final summer in missions

ATLANTA (BP) — Flynt Jones, a student at Mississippi College in Clinton, spent the last three months of his life as a Southern Baptist Home Mission Board summer missionary for the Northwest Baptist Convention.

Jones, who died Sept. 15 of leukemia, was the vocalist of a four-member student revival team. The group traveled throughout Idaho, Washington, and Oregon leading revivals for local churches.

Jones, from Griffin, Ga., originally was scheduled as a member of a Georgia team, but before the summer

began, the other members cancelled.

Jones requested he still be assigned to the Northwest Convention. "He pleaded with me to arrange for him to come. He felt like this was where God wanted him to be," recalled Adrian Hall, associate evangelism director of the convention.

Hall assigned Jones to another three-member team from Mississippi. "We had felt something was missing from our team, but when Flynt joined us, he filled the gap," said Grace Burton, a Mississippi College junior from Evansville, Ind., who was a vocalist with Jones.

Throughout the summer, Jones shared in about 15 decisions, made mostly by young people. "He was very bold in his witness. I saw him single out young people to talk with them about the Lord. He was one of those rarities — a 19-year-old who had it together," said Hall.

Bill Berry, director of the Home Mission Board summer missions program, said: "Flynt spent his summer sharing the gospel out of an urgency, not from the knowledge he was going to die, but out of a compassion and caring rooted in God's love. In this he was a living example of the commitment the mission of Christ demands from all of us."

Although Jones became ill a few times during the summer, leukemia was not suspected until his second week at Mississippi College. He was flown immediately to Emory Hospital in Atlanta, where doctors discovered the terminal illness. He died there three days later.

"Mixed messages" sent by Baptists to Senate

WASHINGTON (BP) — In the aftermath of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee's endorsement of Supreme Court nominee Robert H. Bork, mixed messages have been sent to the U.S. Senate as to whether the Southern Baptist Convention has endorsed the nominee.

Immediately following the Aug. 20-21 PAC meeting in Nashville, the SBC Executive Committee staff — under instructions from the PAC — sent a letter to all U.S. senators informing them of the PAC's adoption of a resolution "to strongly urge the Senate Judiciary Committee and the United States Senate to confirm" Bork's nomination. Enclosed with each letter was a copy of the PAC's full resolution, in which the committee identified itself as having been "duly elected and appointed to represent Southern Baptists on First Amendment concerns, particularly church-state issues, religious freedom issues and those issues relating to the right application of Christianity to the life of the nation."

But in a letter to members of the Senate, BJCPA Executive Director

James M. Dunn wrote: "Please don't be misled. The Southern Baptist Convention has not endorsed Judge Robert Bork.

"While some groups have deliberately attempted to make the 7-5 vote of the Southern Baptist Public Affairs Committee appear to be an official action of the convention and your office has received notification to this effect, you need to be fully informed."

"The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs is the Washington-based agency that serves nine Baptist conventions and conferences including the Southern Baptist Convention and we have taken no action regarding Judge Bork's nomination."

Les Csorba III, a PAC member from Alexandria, Va., said he thinks action by Adrian Rogers, SBC president, would clarify any confusion about the PAC resolution on Bork's nomination.

Rogers, pastor of Bellevue Church, Memphis, told Baptist Press that as a private citizen he does support Bork's confirmation. "As an individual, I have already written both of my senators and encouraged them to confirm Judge Bork's nomination to the Supreme Court."

"I am deeply grieved that in America since Roe v. Wade that lives have been taken from some 20 million pre-born babies," Rogers said. "This is not a mere political or academic matter with me. I do not look at it dispassionately. We are dealing with life and death."

Rogers, who is a PAC member but was not present at the August meeting, continued, "Yet, on the other hand, I realize how careful we as Southern Baptists must be to maintain our integrity in the public arena. Perhaps the (PAC) resolution could have been framed in such a way as to accomplish its purpose without being quite as specific and could have spoken more specifically to principles, rather than a specific person.

"I do feel that the weight of our Southern Baptist pronouncements certainly lines up behind what I have heard and read about Mr. Bork," Rogers said.

Mazda agrees to reduce sponsorship of TV shows with violence, profanity

TUPELO, MS — Christian Leaders for Responsible Television has ended its boycott of Mazda Motors of America. The action follows an agreement by Mazda to reduce the amount of sex, violence and profanity the company helps sponsor on network television.

CLeaR-TV had begun a boycott of Mazda after the automobile maker refused several requests by the coalition to reduce their sponsorship of sex, violence and profanity.

"We are pleased to announce that Mazda has made a commitment to improve their sponsorship practices," said Billy Melvin, chairman of CLeaR-TV. "We are happy that we have reached an agreement with Mazda."

CLeaR-TV first announced a boycott

of Mazda and Noxell Corporation in June. The Noxell boycott was ended over a month ago after that company also agreed to improve their sponsorship.

Donald E. Wildmon, executive director of CLeaR-TV, said the group had reached agreement with several other companies privately and no boycott was needed. He said CLeaR-TV is continuing to work with additional companies. "There is a possibility that a boycott of additional companies will be necessary in the future. CLeaR-TV is committed to upholding the quality of life we have enjoyed in this country. More and more network advertisers are seriously considering the types of programs they help sponsor. We are hopeful that within a few months the kinds of pro-

gramming offered by the networks will begin to change," he stated.

Wildmon organized CLeaR-TV in late 1985. The coalition is composed of more than 1600 Christian leaders, constituting the largest and most diverse groups of Christian leaders even to participate in a single social concern. The group includes the CEOs of 70 denominations, 20 Lutheran bishops, presidents of 53 Christian colleges, 17 Episcopal bishops, 4 Greek Orthodox bishops, 3 Moravian bishops, 2 Catholic cardinals, 16 Catholic archbishops, 94 Catholic bishops, the president of the Southern Baptist Convention, 24 executive directors of state Southern Baptist Conventions, 24 United Methodist bishops, more than 200 Christian broadcasters and the heads of most of the large parachurch organizations in America.

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Texas laymen hold political meeting to consider Baptist work in state

By Toby Druin

SAN MARCOS, Texas (BP) — More than 320 Texas Baptists met last month in the gymnasium of Southwest Texas State University, reportedly for a luncheon and evening of inspiration and fellowship and to discuss affairs of the Baptist General Convention of Texas.

The meeting, an informal gathering by invitation only, featured an address by Richard Jackson, pastor of North Phoenix (Ariz.) Baptist Church, who said he was invited by "long-time friends," John Baugh of Houston and W. Dewey Presley of Dallas, to deliver a devotional, inspirational message. He spoke on "the transforming power of a singular commitment" from Philippians 1, he said.

Both Baugh and Presley, co-hosts for the meeting, have been active, each for some 50 years or more, in Texas and Southern Baptist life. Baugh, a member of Second Church, Houston, is past chairman of the Baptist Foundation of Texas. Presley, a member of Park Cities Church,

Dallas, is past chairman of the Southern Baptist Executive Committee and both have held other denominational posts.

Baugh was contacted by the Baptist Standard, newsjournal of the Baptist General Convention of Texas and said the San Marcos meeting was in "the time-honored practice of Baptist polity, that is, Baptist people informally discussing our many points of view regarding the facets of Baptist work and our denomination's business."

They had sought no publicity for the event and planned it to be a private gathering, he said, but some church groups heard Jackson was to speak and came to the evening meeting. A total of 320 chairs were set up for the evening session, said Baugh, and more had to be brought in to accommodate the crowd.

Baugh acknowledged the meeting would be viewed by some as having political overtones but insisted he and Presley and their guests were just do-

ing what Baptists have done throughout their history — discussing matters of concern.

The discussions, he said, were about the Texas Baptist convention, not the Southern Baptist Convention. Theme of the meeting, he said, was "Texas Baptists have the right to know... a need to know the truth. The Baptist way... speaking the truth... in love... Ephesians 4:15."

He said the possible candidacy of Jackson for the presidency of the Southern Baptist Convention, which meets in San Antonio next June, was not discussed. Jackson was nominated for president in St. Louis in June 1987 and received 40 percent of the vote in losing to Adrian Rogers.

Jackson, contacted by the Standard Sept. 3, confirmed that he had been asked to bring an "inspirational, devotional message" at the meeting and that the topic of discussion was Texas Baptist affairs, not his candidacy for the SBC presidency.

He said he has not been asked to be a nominee for the SBC presidency in 1988 but added his position remains unchanged on the subject, that anyone is free to nominate him who feels he can serve the convention.

Jackson and Baugh said their friendship dates back some 10 years to when Jackson met with Baugh and other members of a pastor-search committee at Second Church, Houston. Jackson told the committee of his commitment to remain at the Arizona church.

Baugh and Presley, both of whom have been active in the group "Laity For... The Baptist Faith and Message," called the San Marcos meeting, Baugh said, because of their concern that the Texas Baptist convention is about to be confronted with the disruptive spirit and controversy that have plagued the SBC the last nine years.

"There is but one major issue before

2.5 million conservative, mainstream Texas Baptists," he said. "We must preserve our Christian principles and Baptist ideals."

Baugh added it is time for Texas Baptist pastors to stand before God, their congregations, and their fellow Texans and state openly whether they want the spirit that has dominated the SBC the last few years "to infiltrate and control the hearts and the minds of Texas Baptists."

Baugh said he has planned no more such meetings but said he would make every attempt he can to get "like-minded fellow Baptists to ask God to give them the guidance in the election of those who are leaders in the state of Texas."

He noted that Joel Gregory, pastor of Travis Avenue Church, Fort Worth, has announced he will permit his nomination for president of the BGCT.

As to the admonition of the SBC Peace Committee that groups discontinue political meetings, Baugh observed the Peace Committee also noted that some politics is "an intrinsic" part of denominational life, including voting and public and private discussions.

"Are we to interpret the report of the Peace Committee that individuals are prohibited from talking about Texas Baptist individuals and Baptist affairs in our state?" he asked.

Toby Druin is associate editor of the Baptist Standard.

SCRAPBOOK

Adoration

Let me praise Thee
For Thy all-seeing eye
Thy all-encompassing hands
Thy magnificent spirit
Thy greatness
Thy glory.

In the day time
To direct me
In the night time
To protect me.

Let me sleep in peace
And wake
To serve Thee.

—Mary Lillian Whitten
Macon

To a friend

I thought she needed more courage
and less humility
But you know what actually happened?
some of it rubbed off on me!

She'd learned that some self underrating
is wiser and better by far
Than to give someone the job of deflating
and bringing us back down to par.

The humble spirit of the meek ones
unobtrusively plodding along
May often be mistaken for weakness
by some of the cynical throng.

For all of us are really disciples:
a 'learner' the dictionaries say
And the greatest of all Disciplinarians
walked humbly and taught the same way.
—Valerie Boyd Howell —
Ripley

Look up!

I am always losing things, and I hunt until I'm dizzy
Car keys, house keys, even my purse; it gets me in a tizzy.
And in my kitchen, heaven knows, I lose things every day.
But I think I've learned the secret to find them right away.
Look up! Look up. Don't be like I was, always looking down
I guess I thought that everything must land on floor or ground.
Now I look up instead of down, and nine times out of ten
I find the object very close to where it's always been.
It occurred to me that looking up is something we should do
Looking for our Lord to come, each day the whole year through.
He'll come in all his Glory; he'll destroy all things corrupt.
And think how happy we will be, if we all are looking up.

—Ruth Norsworthy Crager
State Line

His poem

God put a poem in my head,
And said, "You write it down."

I must remember what he said
Now just push words around.

He said, "When I created you,
I put within your frame.
Everything that you would need,
To glorify my name.

"You always seem so busy,
With 'things' that must be done.
Paul speaks of the Christian life,
As a race that we must run,

"What prize awaits you when you're done
With that rat race that you've begun?"

Consider the 'things' for which you strive
Then read Isaiah fifty-five."

—Laverne S. Pickle
Kosciusko

Prayer chain

A series of connected links
and a fervent prayer is
lifted up for one who has
a need

Oh Lord, I pray, please don't
delay, hear my prayer
and heed.

I lift up your child, Lord,
when he is trodden down

I pray that the lost will
soon be found and lifted
up to meet you on holy
ground

Help me, Lord, that when I
go to pray in secret
to a room

That you, Lord, will come
as light to destroy
the gloom.

—Patricia Lee
Greenwood

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These models are free, so we suggest you write for yours now. Again, we repeat, there is no cost, and certainly no obligation. All hearing problems are not alike and some cannot be helped by a hearing aid but many can. So, send for your free model now. Thousands have already been mailed, so be sure to send your name, address and phone number today to Department 14129, Beltone Electronics, 4201 West Victoria Street, Chicago, Illinois 60646. Offer not valid in California.



SOUTHERN BAPTIST RADIO-TV COMMISSION / FORT WORTH, TX 76150

Is God real?

Dear POWERLINE:

All my life I have felt something inside of me; a sort of security in myself. I know I'm good. Good in the sense that I love people. I love life and beauty. I think it's beautiful to believe in something. It's good to look up and feel there is a reason, a purpose.

But God? How I wish I could say he is real! You might say I'm afraid to get too dependent upon Him. Every time I pray, I ask God if He is really there! And then I say to Him, "Dear Lord, if you can hear me, please try to understand that life is so scary to me. Your reason for putting us here is confusing to me. Right when I start to commit myself to You, it's almost as if there was a big black block of doubt that makes my head feel dizzy."

POWERLINE Answers:

About God, think of a relationship with him rather than dependence upon him. There's a big difference. Perhaps a good analogy is that it is unlikely that you would ever become too dependent on a friend. The essence of friendship is sharing. Each enters in a mystical way into the life of the other. So that your relationship with a friend tends to produce strength, not weakness. It appears to me that there is a parallel here in terms of a relationship with God.

Let me also suggest that you yourself, and other persons who also are self-conscious beings, are a sufficient reason for why God put us here. God must have reserved his supreme love for personality.

God is greatly involved with human life — joys, fulfillment, aspiration, being! I think everything in the Christian faith conspires to help us be better selves and have a satisfying relation to all other selves. That is sufficient reason for existence.

Nurses' Retreat will feature missionary nurses' speeches

Baptist Nursing Fellowship of Mississippi will meet in annual retreat Oct. 16-17 at Camp Garaywa.

The opening Friday night supper will be at 6. The meeting will adjourn on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Ruth Womack, veteran missionary nurse who served in Nigeria, and Joyce Davis, retired missionary nurse and homemaker who served in Ghana, will be featured speakers, according to Shirley Chapman, program chairman.

Vicki McCall of Clinton, former contract missionary nurse to Nigeria, will focus on requirements and preparation for overseas short term mission service.

Regina Gunter, BNF officer from

Lucedale, will report on her recent mission project as a nurse in a clinic near the Mexican border in the Rio Grande Valley.

Special recognition will be given BNF members who staffed GA camps for ten weeks this summer and three sessions at Gulfshore.

Election of BNF officers for 1988-89, chapter and committee reports, campfire services, and opportunities for fellowship with other Christian nurses will also be a part of the retreat.

Cost for the overnight retreat is \$19 per person.

Ashley McCaleb, consultant, state WMU department, says, "Everyone is welcome to attend. If you cannot come for the entire retreat, plan to be present for the Saturday session which begins at 9 a.m. in Dining Room 3."

Saturday lunch costs \$4.25. There is no registration fee.

Confused. Notice in a doctor's office: "Ladies in the waiting room are asked not to exchange symptoms. It gets the doctor hopelessly mixed up." — Leader and Press, Springfield, Mo.

The rung of a ladder has never meant to rest upon, but only to hold a man's foot long enough to enable him to put the other somewhat higher. — Thomas Huxley

Thursday, October 1, 1987

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 7

Sports evangelism organizes

(Continued from page 3)
at prisons and colleges, Pursiful said, adding a full schedule is slated for next spring.

"We're just a new organization. We think the potential is tremendous. We've gotten several requests from churches and towns that are having crusades to come and do a weekend clinic/revival situation," he said. "We just almost don't have time to fill all the requests."

Pursiful and co-director Robby Speer, minister of activities at Severns Valley Church, Elizabethtown, Ky., plan to organize a state fellowship for Baptists in sports in connection with the national effort.

Rick Mitchell, Southern Baptist foreign missionary to the Philippines, said sports is already an important aspect of evangelism and missions there.

"We have four or five different strategies for reaching young people and students," said Mitchell, director of Baptist student ministries in Davao.

"One of them is sports. I see the fellowship as being able to provide resource people who can come from the States and do things that we as missionaries or as nationals are not at present able to do."

The success of the sports fellowship in overseas missions will depend upon the evangelism experiences that take

place, Mitchell said: "As long as Christ is kept first, we'll see results for the harvest. If we put sports first, we'll see a lot of sports, but we'll not see the spiritual results."

"Pastors can bounce a basketball behind their house, and then after 20 minutes they'll have 10 kids there, and they can have Bible study," said Mitchell.

Mitchell also serves on the Davao City Sports Council, the regional coun-

cil for the Philippines Olympic Committee.

National Fellowship of Baptist Men is a ministry of the adult division of the Southern Baptist Brotherhood Commission, and is responsible for organizing and enlisting laypeople for volunteer missions according to their skills, interest and occupations. Fifteen fellowships have been organized.

Jim Burton writes for the Brotherhood Commission.

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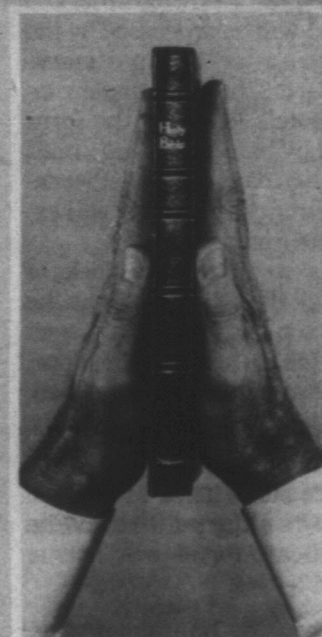
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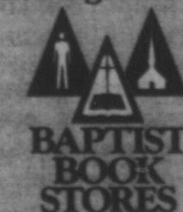
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"All this took place to fulfill the Lord had said through the prophet: 'The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel'." — Isaiah 7:14

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221-8-D404

Mail on October 1!

Housing reservations due for San Antonio

NASHVILLE (BP) — People who plan to attend the Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting in San Antonio, Texas, next summer must make their housing requests Oct. 1, announced Convention Manager Tim A. Hedquist.

The annual meeting will be held in San Antonio, June 14-16. The SBC is holding 4,000 downtown hotel rooms for Southern Baptist messengers, said Hedquist, vice president for business and finance of the SBC Executive Committee.

"If a person wants a chance for a room, he or she must mail the housing request Oct. 1," he added. "It doesn't matter what time of day the request is mailed; all requests will be opened by the date of postmark."

Housing request forms — complete with instructions, room rates, and a map of downtown San Antonio — are available from state Baptist convention executive directors, he said. A copy of the request form and all information is printed in the September issue of *The Baptist Program*, a magazine published by the Executive Committee. (It is also printed on these two pages of the *Baptist Record*.)

"The housing assignment process is conducted by the San Antonio Housing Bureau — people who are not Southern Baptist and who do not know who anyone (in the SBC) is," Hedquist said.

Housing request forms postmarked prior to Oct. 1 will be processed by the housing bureau after those postmarked Oct. 1 or Oct. 2, he said. History indicates all hotels listed on the form will be filled by individuals who mail forms those two days. Hedquist warned Oct. 1 postmarks probably will exhaust all 4,000 rooms.

Individuals cannot reserve blocks of rooms through the housing bureau, he said. A person or group can send multiple forms in the same envelope, but when that envelope is opened, each form will be treated individually.

Requests in the same envelope are not guaranteed to be in the same hotel or even to all be assigned to rooms, he added. Duplicate forms will not be processed.

Once the housing bureau's rooms are assigned, the unassigned requests will be returned to the Executive Committee, he said. Executive Committee staff members will send the requestors information about other San Antonio hotels and travel agents who can help the people reserve rooms in the city.

Individuals who do not want to be processed through the housing bureau may write the Executive Committee and receive the names and telephone

numbers of hotels not included in the housing bureau block. The Executive Committee address is 901 Commerce St., Nashville, Tenn. 37203.

Also, mobile handicapped people who have written verification of their

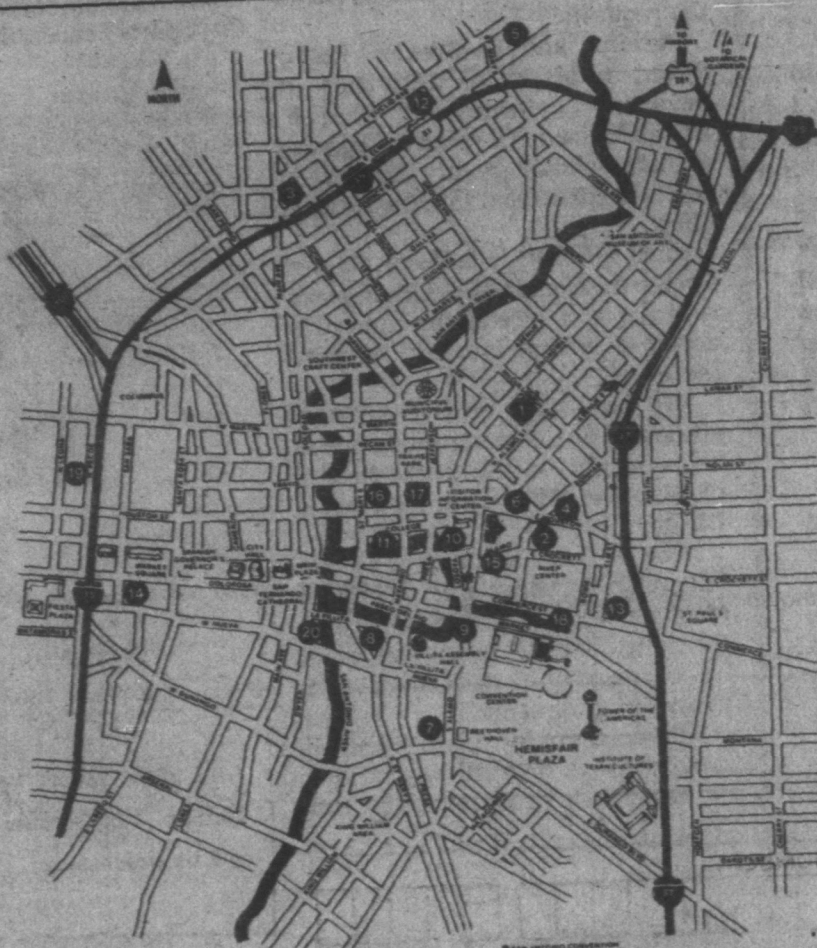
handicap may contact the Executive Committee before Oct. 1 to get housing reservations immediately adjacent to the convention center, he said.

Individuals with special medical needs also may contact the Executive

Committee for pertinent information.

San Antonio has about 13,000 hotel rooms and one of the highest concentrations of rooms near the convention center of any city where the SBC annual meeting convenes, Hedquist said.

Because of that high concentration of nearby rooms and local ground transportation, a special shuttle for SBC messengers will not be offered during the annual meeting next summer.



Downtown
Map

HOTEL LIST

Map Number	Hotel/Motel	Code Letters	Single	Double
1.	Alamo Travelodge	TRA	\$36.00	\$44.00
2.	The Crockett Hotel	CRO	75.00	85.00
3.	Downtown Rodeway Inn	RWI	42.00	44.00
4.	Downtown Motel	DWN	44.00	48.00
5.	Elmira Motor Inn	ELM	24.00	26.00
6.	The Emily Morgan Hotel	TEM	65.00	75.00
7.	Four Seasons San Antonio	FSE	80.00	90.00
8.	Granada Inn by the River	GRI	34.00	44.00
9.	Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel	HPR	90.00	100.00
10.	Hyatt Regency San Antonio	HYR	82.00	93.00
11.	La Mansion del Rio Hotel	LMR	68.00	75.00
12.	La Paloma Inn	QIM	47.00	52.00
13.	La Quinta-Convention Center	LQC	61.00	61.00
14.	La Quinta-Market Square	LQM	61.00	61.00
15.	Menger Hotel	MEN	63.00	72.00
16.	Radisson Gunter Hotel	GUN	75.00	75.00
17.	St. Anthony Inter-Continental	SAI	75.00	85.00
18.	San Antonio Marriott	SAM	88.00	93.00
19.	Texian Inn-Market Square	TXD	42.00	45.00
20.	Travelodge on the River	TRR	60.00	68.00

NOTES:

1. The Hyatt Regency San Antonio will serve as the headquarters hotel.
2. The Pastor's Conference, WMU, and Convention sessions will be held at the San Antonio Convention Center.
3. The WMU will be headquartered at the Hilton Palacio del Rio Hotel.

Good temper, like a sunny day, sheds a ray of brightness over everything; it is the sweetener of toil and the soother of disquietude! — Washington Irving

Ho, hum! Some people don't have much to say. The only trouble is you have to wait so long to find it out. — News, Gowrie, Iowa

Faces And Places

by anne washburn mcwilliams

September weekend

Weather is neither a face nor a place, but it definitely can influence the expressions pictured in faces and

the impressions presented by places.

"The last time Campers on Mission met at Askew's Landing, a cold wave

caught us all by surprise and we nearly froze to death," Richard Alford

warned me last week. So I packed

sweaters and two extra quilts, and even considered taking an electric blanket.

For our 32nd wedding anniversary on September 25, W.D. and I decided to join the friendly COM group holding their tenth anniversary rally. We'd been wanting to try out our camper again, and this time we were determined that the mosquitoes would not have the final word.

On Thursday morning, while I was getting dressed for work, W.D. called, "Breakfast is ready." He had the table

set, and eggs and toast on the table. I thought, "He must have read that article by Paul Mickey in Moody magazine, 'Put Your Mate on a Pedestal.'" The article said, "Raise the interests of your spouse above your own... It helps build a marriage that lasts." (That's not just waiting on your mate hand and foot, but it's speaking words of appreciation often and saying 'I love you' often and it's going out of your way to place your mate's concerns and feelings and interests above your own.)

We didn't have far to drive to Edwards — only 15 minutes, and then five or six miles through hilly woods and pastures to the lakeside campsite called Askew's Landing.

Rarely have I seen weekend weather more perfect. Friday night was cool enough for us to add two quilts after midnight. We didn't need the air-conditioner, so W.D. didn't have to work to level the camper.

After a catered supper, we sat in the pavilion and listened to the other campers sing, and watched the dramatic group, "Sunday Company," perform. Their best presentation, I thought, was a mime of "The Parable of the Talents." A breeze blew across the lake. Above W.D.'s shoulder I could see a thin silvery half-circle of new moon and fading pink streaks of a September sunset. Earl Rochester, president, introduced some of the charter members, who did some reminiscing.

Saturday was just right, not too hot and not too cold. Mama had given us a new toaster as an anniversary gift. It was real handy for breakfast in the camper. I listened to John McBride's seminar on "Preparing for the Unplanned" (while seeking to witness during camping trips). Participants suggested ways of opening conversations with folks on campgrounds and then relating the conversation to a natural sharing of the gospel message. Marie and Hubert Hughes of Natchez suggested that most everybody takes along a map, and that conversations about various routes and directions often take place between campers. How easy to relate that to "Jesus said, 'I am the way... and He is the only route to heaven.'"

Scott Reed in another seminar was talking about the usefulness of the clown mime in resort ministries.

We were camping in the edge of a wood at the curve of the narrow lake. Pat and Richard Alford from Clinton and Howard and Mary Connor from McComb were eating lunch at a table next to our place, so we joined them, taking only our peanut butter and crackers and cheese and vanilla wafers (our typical lazy travel meal.) Sunshine streaming through yellowing leaves made our "dining room" appear to have curtains of gold.

During the afternoon I enjoyed the silence. And we walked a bit and watched some local residents sitting on the lake bank catching tiny fish. W.D. was tempted to go home for his pole, but he never did. He listened to a football game on the radio and we fed bread to the big black and white ducks. As night time again neared, white egrets began to settle on the dead tree trunks poking up from the lake.

Sunday morning, Ralph Hinson preached. As I sat in the pavilion and listened I expressed thanks to God that W.D. and I could celebrate this anniversary together. Once, late last year, when he was sick, I feared we might not see another.

FOR HOUSING BUREAU USE ONLY

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JUNE 14-16, 1988—SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS

OFFICIAL HOUSING REQUEST FORM

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& VISITORS BUREAU
P.O. BOX 2277
SAN ANTONIO, TEXAS 78298

- PLEASE **PRINT** OR **TYPE** ALL ITEMS TO ASSURE ACCURACY.
- COMPLETE EACH PART BELOW IN DETAIL FOR CORRECT AND RAPID PROCESSING.
- SHOULD MORE THAN ONE** (1) ROOM BE NEEDED, PLEASE USE A SECOND FORM.
- ALL** CONFIRMATIONS WILL BE SENT TO INDIVIDUAL INDICATED IN PART I.

PART I INSTRUCTIONS:

Accurately fill in the requested information. The confirmation will be mailed to the person whose name appears in Part I. This person must be one of the persons who will be occupying the room.

If necessary, photocopies of this form may be used to make additional reservations.

(FIRST NAME)															(LAST)														
(STREET ADDRESS OR P. O. BOX NUMBER)																													
(CITY)															(STATE)					(ZIP - U.S.A.)									
(Area Code)					(PHONE NUMBER)																								

Only forms postmarked
October 1 or October 2
will be processed.

PART II INSTRUCTIONS:

From the accompanying list, select six hotels/motels of your choice and place the hotel codes in the boxes in Part II in the order of your preference. You must select six hotels. The hotel codes may be found on page 2 of this form.

FIRST CHOICE ☐ ☐ ☐
(HOTEL CODE)

SECOND CHOICE ☐ ☐ ☐
(HOTEL CODE)

THIRD CHOICE ☐ ☐ ☐
(HOTEL CODE)

FOURTH CHOICE ☐ ☐ ☐
(HOTEL CODE)

FIFTH CHOICE ☐ ☐ ☐
(HOTEL CODE)

SIXTH CHOICE ☐ ☐ ☐
(HOTEL CODE)

PART III INSTRUCTIONS:

1. PRINT OR TYPE NAMES OF ALL PERSONS OCCUPYING THE ROOM, INCLUDING THIS INDIVIDUAL LISTED IN PART I.
2. SELECT TYPE ROOM DESIRED WITH ARRIVAL AND DEPARTURE DATES.
3. PRINT OR TYPE LAST NAME FIRST.

GUEST NAME/S (PRINT LAST NAME FIRST)	P + 1 — Parlor & one bedroom	P + 2 — Parlor & two bedrooms
1.	CHECK ONE Single Triple Double Quad Twin P + 1 Dbl/Dbl P + 2	ARR. DATE _____ DEP. DATE _____ ARR. TIME _____ <input type="checkbox"/> AM <input type="checkbox"/> PM (Check one) NOTE: Reservation will be held only until 6 p.m. unless special arrangements are made directly with hotel. The hotel may request a deposit.
2.		
3.		
4.		

IMPORTANT: No phone orders will be accepted. Make a photocopy of your order for your files. Housing Bureau processes reservations in order of date mailed. Confirmations will come directly from your hotel. DO NOT SEND DEPOSITS WITH RESERVATIONS. Changes in reservations should be made by directly contacting the confirming hotel.

NOTE: PLEASE RECHECK ALL ITEMS FOR CORRECT INFORMATION
DO NOT MAIL FORMS POSTMARKED BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 1987-

MasterLife, MasterBuilder workshops will be held at Gulfshore Assembly

Rick Mitchell of Bush, La., and Val Prince from Fresno, Calif., will be co-leaders for a MasterLife workshop to be held at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly, Oct. 26-30. Pre-registration for this workshop may be made by mailing to Gulfshore Baptist Assembly the \$82.50 registration fee. Simultaneously a MasterBuilder workshop will be conducted. This will be led by Joe Chandler of Knoxville, Tenn. The pre-registration fee for the MasterBuilder workshop is \$50.00.

"It is important that the pastor and one other person, or a person designated by the pastor attend the workshop in order to have a certified person in the church who may order the material and lead a MasterLife

group in the church," states Mose D. Dangerfield, director, Church Training Department, sponsor of the workshops.

MasterLife is a discipleship training course involving persons who are serious about being disciples. The 26-week course is a sequential, developmental, group discipling process that enables one to make Christ master and to master life through practicing basic disciplines under the direction of mature, practicing disciplers.

"Churches conducting MasterLife groups baptize up to 200 percent more persons than churches that have not conducted MasterLife," said Dangerfield. "MasterLife also affects the giv-

ing level of a local church as well as the Sunday School enrollment.

This weeklong workshop to be held at Gulfshore Baptist Assembly will be an ideal time for a pastor to bring a layperson with him to receive the necessary training for conducting this intense discipling program in the church. It is a demanding week and one that changes lives drastically.

Persons interested in participating in this workshop should correspond directly with Gulfshore Baptist Assembly concerning registration. Or, they may call the Church Training Department, Mose D. Dangerfield, director, 968-3800. The phone number for Gulfshore is 452-7261.

Names in the News



R. Tracy Hipps center, has been called as pastor of Enon Church in Big Springs Community.

This is his first pastorate. He and his wife Patricia reside in West Point where he was a staffer at West End Church.

He was ordained to the gospel ministry Aug. 30 at West End. Nelson Crozier, right, of First Church, Sharon, and a former pastor of West End Church, delivered the charge to the church. Jim Carr, left, pastor at West End, delivered the charge to the candidate.

NASHVILLE, TN — John R. Woods, of Kosciusko, has earned the Pastoral Ministries Diploma from the Seminary Extension Independent Study Institute. The diploma was presented September 6, at Second Church, Kosciusko, by the pastor, Danny Dodds. Woods is a member of Second Church. He is employed by Lawrin Lamp Company. He completed a series of 16 courses in earning the Pastoral Ministries Diploma.

Okolona declares Sybil Stewart Day

Sunday, Aug. 2, was declared Sybil Nanne Stewart Day at Okolona First Church. She was honored for serving as church pianist for 39 years. She was presented an inscribed and initialed silver tray and a plaque for her many years of dedicated service.

Former pastors and music directors of the church attended along with 24 family members. She was the honoree at a reception held in the fellowship hall of the church Sunday afternoon.

Allen and Leila Mae Webb will be returning to Mississippi around October 1 from North Dakota, where he has been interim pastor of the Calvary Southern Baptist Church at Emerado. Their Mississippi address is 4008 South Shore Drive, Pascagoula, Miss.

William C. Foster (Bill), former pastor of Hebron Church, is available for interim, supply, or pastorate. He is also available for study courses and revivals. He may be reached by calling his home, 368-3867 or office, 901-365-4010.

Homer Coggins, a member of Siloam Church, Clay County, was honored recently with a surprise party by his church friends. Coggins was presented a brass plaque for his service as a deacon for 54 years, serving as church treasurer for 27 years, and teaching the senior men adult's class for several years.

A cake decorated like the sanctuary was made by Mrs. Gladys Todd and was served with punch.

Terry Chapman was licensed to the gospel ministry, Sept. 6, by Roxie Church, Roxie.

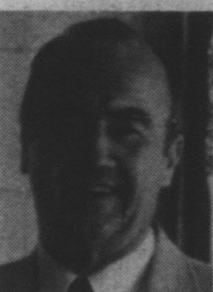
He was presented a certificate of license from Joseph B. Knight, pastor, during the morning services, Sept. 20.

William H. Ross, pastor of Bethlehem Church, Hazel Green, Ala., was honored by the church at his retirement. He is a former pastor of First Churches in Stonewall and Lumberton, Miss., and other churches in Alabama.

Ross has been on the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, a Clarke College trustee, and has participated in numerous Home Mission Board projects.

He and his wife Tommie Jean are natives of Laurel, Miss., and will reside at 814 Mira Vista, Huntsville, AL 35802. He is available for pulpit supply, interim pastorates, and teaching.

Guest speaker in chapel services on the Clarke College campus Sept. 9, was Cecil C. Sims. Sims is executive



Sims is executive director of the Northwest (Washington-Oregon) Baptist Convention. He was visiting in Newton County to conduct a Family Enrichment Conference at Hickory Church and was enroute to Atlanta to attend an executive directors' conference at the Home Mission Board. Sims is the cousin of Mrs. Troy Brand Jr. of Hickory.

John Searcy is available for part time pastorate, minister of music and youth, revivals, and Bible studies.

He has been pastor of Mt. Pleasant Church, Sylva, and minister of music at Zion Church, Morton, and County Line Church, Mendenhall.

Searcy can be contacted at P. O. Box 611, Brandon, MS 39042, or call 825-0990, Mon.-Fri. 9-5.



On Aug. 23, Paul Wilbourn (center) was ordained to the gospel ministry by West End Church (Clay Association). Wilbourn, who was a member of West End Church, recently was called as associate pastor of Siloam Church (Clay Association). Avery Jones (right) is pastor of Siloam. Jim Carr (left) is pastor of West End.

An executive is one who makes an immediate decision and is sometimes right. — Elbert Hubbard

Mississippi Baptist activities

Oct. 8 — New Staff Orientation and Associational Staff Meeting; Baptist Building; 9:30 a.m.-4 p.m. (MBCB & PD)

Missionary News

Barbara Whittington, missionary to the Ivory Coast, is in the States on furlough. Her address is Rt. 3, Box 535A, Grove Hill, Alabama 36451. She was formerly associate BSU director at the University of Mississippi, Hattiesburg.

Michael and Lynn Hutchinson, missionaries to Togo, are the parents of Max Alexander, born July 20. They may be addressed at BP 43 Tabligbo, Togo. He was born in Mobile, Ala., and considers Long Beach, Miss., his hometown. The former Lynn Wood, she was born in Memphis, Tenn., and considers Newhebron, Miss., her hometown.

Robert and Donna Leonard, missionaries to Brazil, report a change of address (Caixa Postal 22, 68100 Santarem, PA, Brazil). He was born in Buffalo, N.Y., and considers Pompano Beach, Fla., his hometown. The former Donna Cralle, she was born in Graham, Texas, and considers Jackson, Miss., her hometown.

Larry and Mary Hendricks, missionaries to Costa Rica, are the parents of Andrea Joy, born July 11. They may be addressed at Apartado 231, Liberia, Guanacaste, Costa Rica. He was born in Edmond, Okla., and considers Yazoo City, Miss., his hometown. The former Mary White of Arkansas, she was born in Fort Smith.

Charles and Mary Elizabeth Ray, missionaries to Japan, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: 4-23-13 Chuo-Rinkan, Yamato-shi, Kanagawa 242, Japan). He is a native of Fort Worth, Texas, and she is the former Mary Elizabeth Gilbert of Perry County, Miss.

Alma Barron, mother of Thomas Barron, missionary to Indonesia, died Sept. 7. He was born in Forest, La., and grew up in Richton, Miss. She is the former Hazel Clark of Richton. Appointed by the Foreign Mission Board in 1967, they may be addressed at 2518 Park Dr., Nashville, Tenn. 37214.

David and Mary Lynn Southerland, Baptist representatives to Belgium since 1982, resigned from missionary service. The Foreign Mission Board approved their resignation at its August meeting. A native of Florida, he was born in Orlando. The former Mary Lynn Perkins of Mississippi, she was born in DeKalb and considers Macon her hometown. They may be addressed at 2700 Evans Dr., Dothan, Ala. 36303.

Paul and Hannah Gay, missionaries to Ethiopia, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: P. O. Box 5539, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia). He was born in Cuthbert, Ga., and considers Jackson, Miss., his hometown. She is the former Hannah Berry of Jackson.

Donald and Teresa Bolls, missionaries to the Niger Republic, have completed furlough and returned to the field (address: BP 10038, Niamey, Niger Republic). He is a native of Jackson, Miss. She is the former Teresa Downey of Grady, N.M.

Locke Station will celebrate 50th anniversary

Locke Station Church, Panola Association will celebrate its 50th anniversary Oct. 4. The church was organized on Nov. 21, 1937, with 12 charter members, some of whom are still living today.

A former pastor, Billy McDaniel, will preach during the morning service and a former music director, Joe Meurrier, will direct the music for both the morning and afternoon services. Lunch will be served in the fellowship hall following the morning service.

The afternoon service will begin at 1 with singing, followed by a short church history, recognition of charter members, comments by former pastors, and former music directors, and special music by former music directors.

The pastor, Ray Legge, will bring closing comments.

Off the Record

"There," said the newlywed husband pointing to Niagara Falls, "I told you that if you married me I'd show you the world's largest cataract."

"Cataract!" screamed the former chorus girl. "I thought you said Cadillac."

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May I invite you into my sunroom?

By Billie Buckley

I wish you were here with me in my sunroom. We could look out together at the breeze playing through the pecan trees; the new calves standing quietly by their mothers; the complete stillness of the pond. This is one of those rare peaceful days when even nature is in harmony with herself.



Buckley

Maybe we COULD share something. Go get your Bible and turn to Isaiah 59. I'm serious. Let's you and I, who may be complete strangers, do this together. This chapter is Isaiah's prophecy of the glory of the church in the latter days. There is no need for comment nor interpretation. We will just claim its truths for our churches.

Your church may be an exciting church or a tired church. It could be filled with people or filled with emptiness. Its location could be Anywhere, USA, in an overcrowded city surrounded by indifference and sophistication or in a genteel village overpowered with tradition and legalism.

Remember the most important truth to claim is God's presence and not just his words, therefore:

Truth #1 Claiming Him "The Lord shall arise upon thee . . ." (v. 3).

Truth #2 Claiming Togetherness "They shall flow together . . ." (v. 4).

Truth #3 Claiming the Budget "They shall bring gold and incense . . ." (v. 6).

Truth #4 Claiming Others "All the flock . . . shall be gathered together . . ." (v. 7).

Truth #5 Claiming Victory "The days of thy morning shall be ended" (v. 20).

Truth #6 Claiming the Impossible "Thy people also shall be all righteous" (v. 21).

Truth #7 Claiming God's Timetable "I the Lord will hasten it in his time" (v. 22).

Now that we have bonded together to claim these truths, we are friends. Share with me and others what you have claimed for your church and the result of this experience in your heart. May our discouragement have turned to hope and our hope to action — remembering always that God's actions must first go through our personal faith.

Billie Buckley (Mrs. Gerald) resides in Petal and is wife of the pastor of Petal-Harvey church.



Lloyd Lunceford, left, Mrs. Jessie Dawson, center, and Richard Brogan discuss plans for the Black Baptist Student Fall Retreat.

Black Baptist Student Retreat will be held at Camp Garaywa

The Black Baptist Student Union Fall Retreat is to be held Oct. 23-24 at Camp Garaywa. The theme will be "Students Loving a Hurting World." Mrs. Jessie Dawson, National Baptist student consultant for Mississippi; Lloyd Lunceford, associate, student work department, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board; and Richard Brogan, executive director, Mississippi Baptist Bi-Racial Commission, have been working together in making plans for the retreat.

The goals of the retreat, according to Mrs. Dawson, are "to save souls; to rededicate lives, and to train students for church work and summer missions."

Program personnel will include John Corbitt, director, National Baptist Student Union; L. Z. Blankenship, president, South Mississippi Congress; Susan Quisenberry, Home Mission Board, SBC, (who works with stu-

dent missionaries); Ken Watkins, BSU director, Miss. State University; Eddie Longstreet, Miss. State University; Larry Johnson, volunteer student director, Mississippi Valley State University; James Anderson, Hinds Junior College District, Raymond; Mrs. Edna Clark, volunteer student director, Jackson campus, Hinds Junior College; Mrs. Helen Hampton, volunteer student director, Rust College; and Mrs. Bessie Silket, volunteer student director, Coahoma Junior College.

Students and volunteer directors are expected from Alcorn State; Coahoma JC; Jackson State Univ.; Hinds Junior College (Jackson, Raymond, and Utica campuses); Mississippi Valley State Univ.; Mississippi State; MUW; Natchez Junior College; Rust College; and Gulf Coast College.



Bridges

Ross

Revival Dates

Antioch, Columbus: Oct. 4-7; Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m. with Clifton Perkins; Monday at noon and 7 p.m. with Mickey Dalrymple; Tuesday at noon and 7 p.m. with Jim Futral; Wednesday at noon and 7 p.m. with Guy Reedy; pastor, Jimmy Harrington; minister of music, Mac Pace.

Crestview, Petal: Oct. 4-9; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 10 a.m. and 7:30 p.m.; Paul Blanchard, pastor; Pineview, Hattiesburg, guest evangelist; Mark Dunn, Pineview, Hattiesburg, music director; Raymond Parkin, pastor.

First, Crystal Springs: Oct. 3-5; Rick Stanley, evangelist; James Beasley, minister of music; services each night at 7 p.m.; Contemporary Ensemble from First, Brookhaven to sing Oct. 3 and Crystal Belles and Heavenbound to sing Oct. 5; Joel Haire, pastor.

Pilgrim's Rest, (Panola): Oct. 4-7; Sunday services, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Sammy Little, Midway (Pontotoc), evangelist; Carey Myers, pastor.

Sunflower (Sunflower): Oct. 4-9; Danny Lanier, full-time evangelist; Mark Manning, music; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Harold Lollar, Jr., pastor.

Baptist youth orchestra to be formed

GLASGOW, SCOTLAND — A New Christian youth orchestra will make its first appearance before an international audience of 10,000 people in 1988. The new 'Baptist Youth Orchestra' will play and lead worship services each evening during the 11th Baptist Youth World Conference in Glasgow, July 26-31, 1988, under the theme, "Jesus Christ Rules."

The orchestra's artistic director, Geoff Colmer, a former professional orchestral musician, is currently preparing for the Baptist ministry at Spurgeons College.

The auditions will be held in five centers throughout Britain between November 1987, and January 1988, and applications are already being solicited. In order to be chosen, applicants must have musical ability and must be worshipping in a Baptist church. Further details from BYO, 16 Shirburn Road, Torquay, Devon TQ1 3JL.

What's the hurry? In the old days if anybody missed a stagecoach he was content to wait a day or two for the next one. Now he squawks if he misses one section of a revolving door. —

Youth Ministries' Workshop to meet at Tiak O'Khata

A Youth Ministries Workshop in October will feature opportunities for ministers to youth to discuss their



Pope

work, learn how to deal with parents, and work with youth councils. The conference, set for Oct. 26-28 at Lake Tiak O'Khata near Louisville, will have on hand Bradley Pope, Bonita Bridges, and Richard Ross. Pope is a Jackson-based counselor, Bridges is area consumer management specialist with the Mississippi Cooperative Extension

Service. And Ross is a consultant in the church administration department of the Sunday School Board.

Session topics include "Ministry with Youth in Crisis," "Managing Debt/Credit," "Setting Your Life Priorities," "Healthy Staff Relationship," and "The Youth Minister and the Courage to Care."

The program begins at 1:30 Oct. 26 with registration and concludes at lunch Oct. 28. To make reservations at Lake Tiak O'Khata, write Rt. 2, Box 386, Louisville, MS 39339. To register for the conference write Church Administration Department, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205 (by Oct. 16).

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Just for the Record



Thirteen Mississippians from the Meadville area traveled to Ohio this summer to help Trotwood Church in suburban Dayton, saving the church about \$60,000 on a church addition.

The project, which was assisted by other churches, consisted of adding a 3,000 square foot addition including nine classrooms, a fellowship hall, a pastor's study, library, and kitchen. Without labor, the project was estimated to cost \$100,000. It was done

for under \$45,000.

Pictured with the Trotwood Church pastor Tom Chattin and his wife are the workers. From left they are Tony and Paulette Mullins, Misty and Maranda and Gloria and Randy Priest, Buster Middleton, Kurtz Ezell, Billy Terrell, David Golman, Jim and Trudy and Misty Alford. Churches represented included New Hope, Providence, and New Salem.



This is the Executive Council at East Central Junior College. From left, front row: Tina Stokes, outreach chairman, Pine Grove, Neshoba; Cynthia Ganann, publicity chairman, Center Hill, Leake; Brenda Trosper, social chairman, Murphy Creek, Winston; Melanie Huffman, worship chairman, Grace Baptist Church, Neshoba;

Second row: Jeff Wall, commuter chairman, Clarke Venable, Newton; Marsha Stovall, president, Coldwater, Neshoba; Sheila Goodwin, music chairman, Rocky Point, Leake; Amy Parker, missions chairman, Grace, Neshoba; Don Gann, director.



A Backyard Bible School was held recently in the yard of Harmon and Sis Jordan, sponsored by Old Oak Grove Church, Myrtle. Forty-six pupils registered, and average attendance was 25. Working in the school were the pastor, Tommy Peters, Vesta Huddleston, Debra Kiddy, Sandra Garrett, Stacy Brownlee, John Hearn, and Mark and Jason Jordan. Pupils pictured, from

left, back row, are D. J. Cobb, Kevin Merritt, David Laverne, Amanda Robertson, John Hearn, Jennifer Laverne, Tonya Windham, Cindy Dawson, Mandy Hargrove, and Christy Hale; front row, Amy Smith, Matt Fitzgerald, Jamie Fitzgerald, Ginger Simmons, Carol Peters, Nicole Baldwin, Nickie Hale, Richard Dawson, Wayne Kiddy, William Hale, and Crystal Kiddy.

Thirty-three ladies of Rankin Association met at First Church, Richland, Sept. 8, for the study of A Century to Celebrate: History of WMU.

Vesta Renfroe of McLaurin Heights Church presented the history of women in missions dating back to 1888. Those attending the study, fellowship and luncheon were Juanita Gallaspy, Geneva Peden, Kathryn Madden, Ruth Jennings, Mildred Herrington, Nina Rayborn and Meriam Brown of Pearson; Florence Burton, Ruth Everett and Velma Denley, Paul Truitt; Agnes Bates and Beulah Winstead, Leesburg; Edna Dyer, Emma Cross, Ellen Watkins, Maud Blount, Estelle Vanderziel, Gertrude Beasley and Estelle Barnett, First, Pearl; Madelyn Young and Hazel Phelps, Mt. Pisgah; Lottie Scoggins, Helen Butler, Edna Pearson, Virginia Patrick, Thelma Martin, Lillie Mae Smith, Nellie Mae Rimes, Jimmie Sue Simpson, Exo Nell Peagler and Clara Warren, First, Richland.

Guests were welcomed by Dale Sauls, minister of education, who also joined the ladies in the fellowship hall for lunch along with the minister of youth, Clay Moss and wife, Vicky, Cathy Yarbrough and Marie Phillips, secretaries, and Harold Weeks, custodian.

A Fall Festival will be held at Hillcrest Church, 3102 Monticello Dr., Jackson, Fri., Oct. 2, from 6:00-9:00 p.m. They will have entertainment such as a hot dog supper, pie throw, dunking booth, moon walk, bake sale, and fishing pond.

All of the money received will go to the Children's Library and Resource Room.

Pocahontas Church has opened a building fund to replace the church plant that was destroyed by fire Sept. 10. The United Mississippi Bank, Box 5, Clinton, MS 39056, has been designated as the official depository.

Although men are accused of not knowing their own weakness, yet perhaps few know their own strength. It is in men as in soils, where sometimes there is a vein of gold which the owner knows not of — Swift



Kevin Parker, summer missionary to Virginia, spoke to the GAs at Antioch Church, Jasper County, on Labor Day weekend. Parker was appointed as summer home missionary representing the Jones County Junior College BSU.

The GAs interviewed Parker to help complete one of their activities toward a badge.

Pictured, front row, are Amanda Pippen, Christy Phillips, Melissa Bishop, second row, Faye Pippen, GA leader, Parker, Leslie James, Amy Delk, Wendy Phillips, and Lou James, GA leader.

Carey Bass is pastor and John Sumner is BSU director at Jones County Junior College.



Belle Fountain Church, Ocean Springs recently held an Acteens' recognition service. The theme was "Faith, Hope and Charity the Greatest of These is Love."

Pictured, left to right are queens Jenny Hight, Wendy Doffing, Amy Cameron, Theresa Mathieu, Misty Merideth, and Tina Doffing.

Frank Stovall, head of the Mississippi College music department, and Ralph Taylor, pianist and professor of music, will open the college faculty recital series with a program of nineteenth-century composers on Thursday, Oct. 1, at 8 p.m. in Aven Auditorium.

NEW ORLEANS — A "Bivocational Ministries Awareness Conference" will be held from 3 to 5 p.m. on Oct. 13, at New Orleans Seminary.

Dale Holloway, National Consultant on Bivocational Ministries for the Home Mission Board, will lead the conference.

Mother Teresa visits Russia, wants work there

MOSCOW, U.S.S.R. (EP) — Mother Teresa, 79, the 1979 Nobel Peace Prize laureate and Roman Catholic nun known for her relief work in Calcutta, India, arrived here Aug. 20, for a six-day visit, saying she hoped the Soviet government would let her set up a mission near Chernobyl because "I was told that these were some people like that who could use our tender love and care."

Soviet law bars religious organizations from charity work on the ground that it can become a means of proselytism.

Mother Teresa's religious order operates more than 350 centers for the poor and sick, including homes for AIDS victims in New York and Washington, and projects in Communist countries such as Cuba, Poland, and Yugoslavia, where she was born of Albanian parents.

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FOR SALE: USED MINOLTA EP 310 copier, 3 supply trays, overhauled recently, \$500.00. Crowder Baptist Church, Box 156, Crowder, MS 38622; (601) 326-8339.



Pictured from left at Harmony's 75 anniversary are Enoch Purvis, Marvin Cox, and Robert Daniel.

Harmony unveils photos at 75th year celebration

Harmony Church, New Albany, celebrated its 75th anniversary in June with old fashioned day and dinner with 300 present.

Guest speakers were Enoch Purvis, former pastor, 1966-79, Marvin Cox, Union County director of missions, and Robert L. Daniel, pastor.

Photos of all former pastors, including organizing pastor, John H. Heath, and all former deacons, were unveiled. The oldest living member is Mrs. Cora Thomas, 94.

The service was videotaped for posterity.

Staff Changes

Roger Dorsett, director of missions, Jackson Association, will be resigning effective October 5. He will become pastor of Calvary Baptist Church in Emerado, North Dakota.

Arkabutla Church, Northwest, has a new minister of youth and music, Rick Wilburn. He is a graduate of Mid-America Seminary, Memphis.

Charles Cavanaugh is pastor.

M. B. "Buddy" Puryear, former pastor of Walnut Grove Church, Walnut Grove, has been called as pastor of First Church, Blountsville, Ala.

He is a graduate of Clarke College, Mississippi College, and New Orleans Seminary.

Puryear and his wife, Aleathea, have one son, Jeremy. His new address is P. O. Box 280, Blountsville, AL 35031.

Tommy Tackett accepted the pastorate of Valley Grove Church in Pontotoc Association on Aug. 30.

Clyde K. Schiele has resigned as music and youth director of First Church, Lambert, in order to work full time in evangelism and counseling. He and his wife, Jean, recently moved from Memphis to Grenada.

First Church, Lambert, presently has a position as music and youth director open. References may be sent to First Baptist Church; Box 145; Lambert, MS 38643.

Dionne Williams has joined the staff of First Church, Greenville, as minister of education as of Sept. 13. He and his wife, Susan, and their two children, Natalie and Tony, went to Greenville from Union Church in Picayune where he served in a similar position for the last nine years.



Williams

West End Church, West Point, has called Terry Partin as full-time associate pastor/youth. Partin has attended Blue Mountain College and New Orleans Seminary. He began his duties on Aug. 28. Jim Carr is pastor.

Immanuel Church, Greenwood, has called Alan Berry as minister of music and youth. Berry is a graduate of Northwest



Berry

Mississippi Junior College, and Delta State University. He served as minister of music and activities at Greenfield Church in Greenville before going to Immanuel Church.

Caution! So live that you are safe to sell your parrot to the town gossip. — News, South Kent Co., Mich.

A long winter. You think you have things bad? Consider a bear with insomnia. — Herald, Everett, Wash.

Bethel Church, Lincoln Association, will honor its senior citizens with Old Fashion Day, Oct. 25. W. C. Sandiford, former pastor, will speak in the morning service. A noon meal will be served for all those over 60 by the younger members. Gospel singing will be presented in the afternoon.

Homecomings

New Hope, Carthage: Oct. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m. followed by worship service at 11; Smith Sanders, Harperville, former pastor, will bring the message; covered dish lunch served in fellowship hall at noon; The "Glory Road Singers" will present an afternoon program that begins at 1:30; Jimmy Young, pastor.

Stonewall (Simpson): Oct. 4; dinner on church grounds, singing, and fellowship afterwards; Bob Jones, pastor.

Siloam (Clay): Oct. 11; Sunday School, 9:45 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m.; J. B. Miller, former pastor, guest speaker; lunch at noon and singing by local talent in the afternoon; Avery Jones, pastor.

Glading (Amite): Oct. 11; Sunday School at 10 a.m., worship at 11; dinner on the grounds; afternoon singing by "The Foundations," a Pike County group consisting of Sam Oglesby, Clifton Williams, Jarvis Branch, and Dwight Rimes; Charles Kirkfield, pastor.

Moselle Memorial: Oct. 4; Sunday School at 9:45 a.m.; worship at 11 a.m.; speaker will be Charles Pickering, former president of the Mississippi Baptist Convention; lunch served; afternoon services to include special dedication of the New Fellowship Hall/Education Building; Garland Eaves, pastor.

McAdams (Attala): Oct. 11; Sunday School at 10; worship at 11 with Douglass Hogg, pastor, speaking; lunch in the Family Life Building; a special music program featuring "The Singing Messengers" of New Hope Church at 1:30. Special music at the evening worship hour.

Arkabutla: Oct. 11, at 11 a.m.; speaker, Bobby Walton, Benoit, former pastor of Arkabutla; Charles Cavanaugh, pastor; songfest in afternoon.

Olivet, Gulfport: Oct. 18; services, Sunday School, 10 a.m., worship, 10:45 a.m.; dinner on grounds, noon; afternoon service, 1 p.m.; Floyd Hughes and The Olivets, special guests.

Clear Branch (Rankin): Oct. 11; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship, 11 a.m.; E. N. Sullivan, former pastor, preaching; dinner on the grounds, afternoon service, 1 p.m. with group singing; David Jay, pastor.

Mount Moriah (Marshall): Oct. 4; Sunday School, 10 a.m.; worship service, 11 a.m.; followed by lunch with afternoon services; Millard L. Swinney, pastor.

Senior Adult Corner



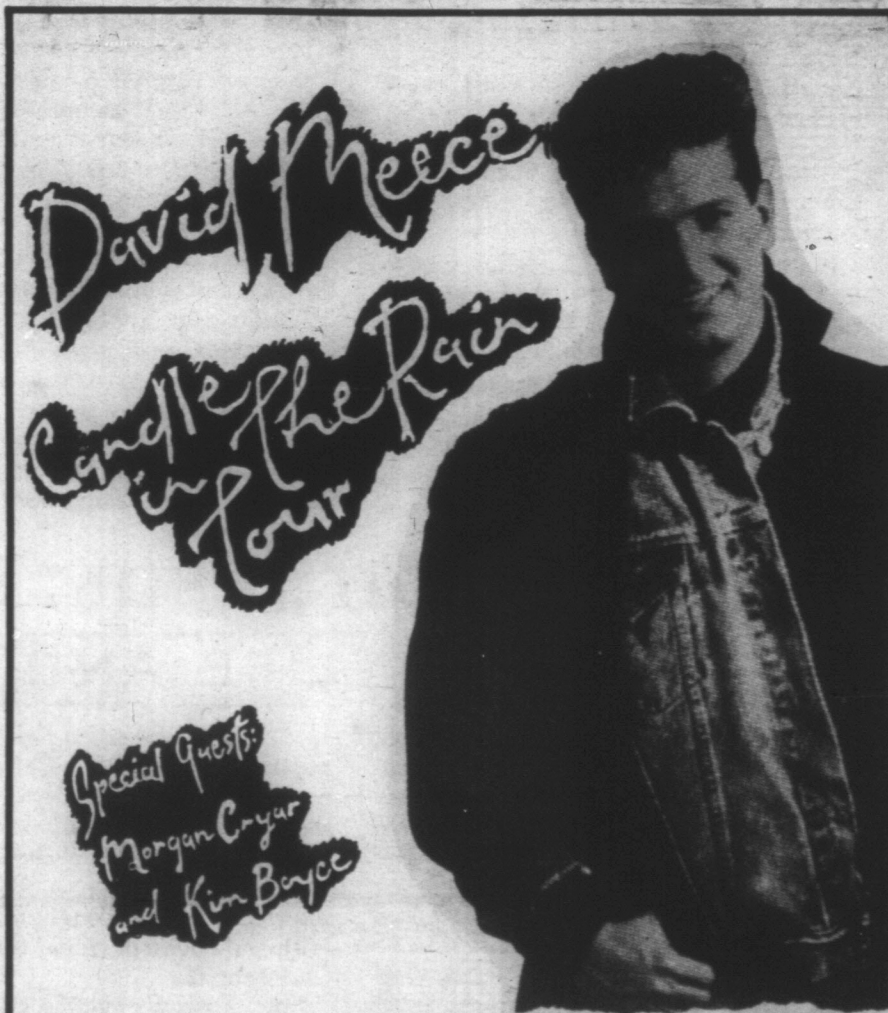
At the morning service of First Church, Amory, Aug. 16, Pastor Jerry Massey recognized the Triple L Club (Live Longer and Like It) as having attained the Standard of Excellence. Mrs. Mary H. Morgan, president, accepted the certificate for outstanding work and service. Officers shown displaying of certificate are Mary Morgan, president; Fay Hathcote, secretary; and Alta Clayborne, vice president.



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"To be the best we can be, we must obey God"

By Julian W. Fagan III
Genesis 11:27-3:9

We live in a world that emphasizes the importance of pleasure and accomplishment. Fulfillment is portrayed as being found in realization of pleasing things and in achievement of personal goals. Personal pleasure and personal gain are fast becoming the ethic of America. In such a world, how does the Christian respond? What basis do we have to counter an argument that has such a wide following and that is espoused by so many people? The Word of God teaches another way to fulfillment and happiness and to doing the most good for other people. The story of Abram's call provides the way to true happiness and to greatness.

Abram was not a country bumpkin. He was reared in Ur, a civilized and highly developed city, likely on the southern part of the Euphrates River. His father moved the family north on the river to the city called Haran and lived there until he died. God spoke to Abram and called him to follow. God's call was to leave and to go. Abram's father was an idolater (Josh. 24:2) and had been comfortable living in the above two cities where the moon-god was wor-



Fagan

UNIFORM

shipped. Haran was a flourishing caravan city. God had spoken to Abram before he moved to Haran (Acts 7:2), but it is after his father's death that we see Abram respond.

God's request was that Abram leave and go to a place that would later be shown to him. He was asked to leave that settled world developed by the nations of the post-Babel era and go to a better place that God would provide. With the request, God made a promise of blessing. So, Abram has a call, a promise, and a choice to make. His choice is obedience or disobedience. If he obeys, he must leave all that he has known, which includes his country, his people, and his father's household — not to mention that he is 75 years old. Think about that for a minute. Stop reading and think! He had to leave everything he knew and start over as an old man. He did not know where he was going or what it would be like. It was crunch time. When one is at this point in life, look at the number of factors that are involved! But, in essence there was only one — was this what God wanted him to do?

We can stir and stew over a multitude of issues, but if one of the issues is the request of God, that call is the only issue. The answer to it solves all the rest. One characteristic of Abram's life from this point forward is his

prompt obedience to God. Perhaps his life for 75 years among idolaters had taught him that the accomplishment of personal goals and the search for pleasure were not the answers to fulfillment. He chose to follow God.

Today Abraham has a great name, and all the blessings promised by God have been poured out on this faithful follower. If we make a list of the great people in history, Abraham ranks high on the list. If we talk about faith, he has no superior. What is it that places this man among the greats in the history of the world? Not personal accomplishments or pleasures experienced, but a simple obedience — obedience to God.

What is the energy that drives you today? Is it the anticipation that comes on Friday afternoon, pay day, vacation, the new car you just financed, the new house, the note at the bank, or does your arthritis simply prevent you from staying in the bed any longer? Wouldn't it be wonderful to have an energy that propels us to do something that will last beyond these few years that we live here, that would outlast the average automobile? Gosh, we are still talking about what Abraham did several thousand years ago! Talk about achieving and being the best.

The reason we talk about this man is not because of his wealth or his corporation or his

invention. It is because of his obedience. He left it all to go to an unknown place to accomplish an unknown task just because God asked him to do it. And he was 75 years old. Talk about motivation for living. People become great when they serve God. That also is when they are able to be the most help to other people.

If you are looking for energy to motivate your life, find God's call for you. If you want to be a blessing to the people around you and even to people whom you have never seen, find God's call for your life. If you want to find fulfillment in life, look for what God has in store and stop storing up all that stuff for yourself. Life is always in the giving up and going after God. Do not say you are too old. Abraham was 75 when he started; Caleb was 85.

Abram was not unique in receiving the call of God. **EVERY CHRISTIAN HAS BEEN CALLED BY GOD TO SALVATION AND TO MINISTRY.** He has a ministry for each of us. The question is will we obey as he calls us? In order to be the best we can be, we must obey God and follow him. That is the best for us and for other people. That is also the way to find purpose in life. It is also a lot less crowded than the freeway.

Julian Fagan is pastor, First, Pontotoc.

(*Abraham's name is Abram until it is changed in Genesis 17:5.)

God creates the world, rests on seventh day

By Rex Yancey
Genesis 1:1-3, 7-11, 25-27; 2:2-3

The Hebrew title to the first book in the Old Testament would simply be "In the beginning." The title "Genesis" came from the Septuagint, the Greek translation of the Old Testament.



Yancey

The book of Genesis is power packed, yet enumerated in all simplicity. Genesis provides for us a theological summary of the beginning. The Bible is not a science book, although it does contain matters pertaining to science. Some Bible knowledge is not exhaustive. We must stay on the emphasis of God.

Verse 1 assumes the existence of God. The writer does not try to prove the existence of God. To him, God is a matter of fact. God is absolute in the beginning. He is not only before all, he is above all.

Verse 1 denies atheism (no God), polytheism (many gods), fatalism (doctrine of chance), pantheism (God is everything and everything

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is God), and materialism (the eternality of matter).

God is seen as active. He is moving, creating, forming and speaking. God is sovereign over his creation. His sovereignty reaches from heaven to earth. He is sovereign over man. He gave dominion to man.

God created this world from no preexisting material. A man forms and makes, but only God can create.

There are various theories as to the creation of the world. Conscientious Christians hold different theories of creation. However, when one goes back as far as he can in the creation of the world and man, God did it. This is a truth with which we can build our lives. Let us study the theories and even hold to certain ones. But let us build our lives on principles that are immutable.

In verse 3, we have creation by Fiat, a Latin word which means "let be." God spoke and it happened. There was something in creation with the potential of bringing forth light. Creation began to move and work to bring life. God

created the form and then filled it up.

In verse 4, God gives his approval to what he has done. "It is good." Then he cried to the light, "Light, your name is day." And he cried to the darkness, "Darkness, your name is night." The first three days are preparation, and the last three are accomplishment.

Is the "day" a 24-hour day? This word is not always used to describe a 24-hour period of time in the Bible. Sometimes it is used for a long period of time. Job 14:6 is a reference to a lifetime. John 9:4, 2 Corinthians 6:2, and Romans 13:12 are not 24-hour days. Peter said in 2 Peter 3:8, "But do not let this one fact escape your notice, beloved, that with the Lord one day is as a thousand years, and a thousand years as one day" (NAS). How old is the earth? No one knows. However old it is, God created it. He also created man in his own image.

God said, "Let us make man in our image." Dr. Watts said, "God was calling on every mode by which he manifested himself to come into play at the point of the highest of creation, namely man. If one sees the Trinity here, he is seeing too much. If one does not see the incipient possibility of the God-head in three per-

sons or manifestations, he is seeing too little. The exalted nature of man and his place and scheme in creation call for the cooperation of the whole company of heaven."

In verses 25-27, God created the beasts of the earth, the cattle, and the creeping things of the earth. There is not a crossing over of the species but a development of the species. Man is placed at the climax of the creation story. Mankind is the apex or the crown of God's creation. Man was to be fruitful and multiply, fill up the earth, subdue the creation, and have dominion over it. God created male and female.

There are four differences between man and the animals. One, man is created in God's image. Two, God breathed into man's nostrils the breath of lives. Three, man is reckoned as superior to all animals. Four, man has the power to reason.

In chapter 2:2-3, all the development involving the direct work of God has come to an end, but the potential of this creation is still going on. God does not rest because he is tired. He rests to commemorate the completion of his work.

Rex Yancey is pastor, First, Quitman.

Believing on Jesus: salvation comes through faith

By Al Finch
Galatians 1:4-7, 2:15-21

One subject the early Christian had to face was making Christ the only means of salvation. To alter the simple truth that Jesus Christ only



Finch

(plus nothing; less nothing) was the way to God, would pervert the gospel. Salvation comes through faith in Jesus Christ.

Paul clearly states that redemption comes from Jesus Christ "who gave himself for our sins" (Galatians 1:4). He died on the Roman cross voluntarily, and of the Father's will. Clearly no one took his life. . . . He laid it down. Yet in the cross event God's will and purpose were coming to fruition. Further, the purpose of the death of Christ was to deliver us from the "present evil world." This truth made evident is the cause for praise and certainty (Galatians 1:5).

An understanding of the message that follows will be made clearer if we understand Acts

LIFE AND WORK

15:1-31. The Jerusalem church considered the possibility that faith in Christ alone was sufficient for salvation. The evidence was clear and the decision definite, that, one came to Christ by faith (a condition of the inner man) rather than by circumcision (a condition of the outer man). Some Jews sought circumcision before faith and added personal works to the work of Christ for us.

Now, apostasy comes because people are following these "Judaizers." They were "removed" from grace to another gospel. This "another gospel" is not a second gospel resembling the first. It is no alternate choice placed alongside the real. It is "not another" gospel. Clearly our redemption is in Christ only. These verses refute the statement, "We're all going to the same place; it doesn't matter how we get there."

This contrast of "inner faith" and "outer works" is discussed at length in Galatians 2:15-21. Salvation is not by works but by faith (Galatians 2:16). "We have believed in Jesus

Christ, that we might be justified by the works of Christ."

A statement of salvation as well as a personal testimony is given in Galatians 2:20. A Christian is not someone who is trying to obey an outward law. He is the one who has the living Christ living within him. By faith I am united to Christ forever. When he died, I died; when he arose, I arose with him. He lives out his life through me as I walk by faith. Four memory words of Galatians 2:20:

The Christian life — its Cost: "I am crucified with Christ." The Christian life is not "cheap" . . . look at the cost to Christ. He was crucified. Nor is it easy . . . look at the cost to the believer . . . he dies in Christ. Read Romans 6:8, Colossians 2:20, 3:3, II Timothy 2:11. We are to take up our cross (Matthew 16:24). A cross is not a burden, a broken-hearted frustration, a disappointment, an agony, or a trial. The cross is an instrument of execution, a thing to die on. Jesus died, doing for us what we could not do for ourselves, but we die by faith with him.

The Christian life — its Condition: "Nevertheless I live . . ." We die, yet we live. This is

our glory, yet our tension. Our glory is that we share the death/resurrection event, dying to live. Our tension is the living of a spiritual life in a physical setting.

The Christian life — its Character: "Yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: And the life I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God." Christ lives in Paul, and Paul's life is in Christ. These are two worlds, one visible and the other invisible. The world we can see seems to leave no room for the other. Yet in Christ it is there!

The Christian life — its Center: "Who loved me and gave himself for me." Loving and giving are the nature of God and characterize God's relationship to men. Read John 3:16, I John 4:9-10. His death was an act of self-surrender, motivated by his own love. There was no natural necessity, or the Father's will forced on him unwillingly. He died because he loved.

It was love for me in a special and unique sense. His death is for me and instead of me. Jesus died for all because he died for each. Christ died for the world but he "loved me and gave himself for me."

Al Finch is pastor, First, Greenwood.

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A portion of the Village View is allocated each month to a list of Gifts of Honor and Memory. Many groups and individuals elect to pay tribute to others through this sensitive, meaningful and helpful medium. This feature is hopefully designed to further honor, with taste and respect, those who are and have been special to our special friends.

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Sept. 23, 1987

Miss Glanara Anderson
The F. H. Anders Family
Pearl Louise Anderson
Mr. & Mrs. Paul Honea
Dorris & Lurline Stewart
Miss Virgie Lee Turner
Glendon Appleton
Truth Seekers Sunday School,
Emanuel BC, Grenada
Mrs. Ashley
Miss Hazel Chisholm
Joe Ashlock
Dr. & Mrs. W. Bert Thompson
Gus Ballard
Mr. & Mrs. T. C. O'Neal
Mr. Thomas Barlow
Mr. & Mrs. DeBerry Hall
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Young Jr.
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Mrs. Margaret Havard
Rebuilder's Sunday School
Class, FBC, Lucedale
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Mrs. Irene Young
Mr. & Mrs. Oliver N. King

WAL-MART DISTRIBUTION CENTER, BROOKHAVEN DESIGNATES MONEY FOR DICKERSON PLACE

Shown, left to right, is Mr. Ray Covington, Loss Prevention Manager for Wal-Mart, Mrs. Joyce Wilson, Social Service Caseworker, Dickerson Place, Mr. Jim Wilson, Safety Committee Chairman for Wal-Mart and Dr. Kermit D. McGregor, Public Relations Director for The Baptist Children's Village. Mr. Covington presented a \$1,500.00 check for DICKERSON PLACE ministries in honor of five hundred thousand hours of safe work.



MRS. AMERICA 1987 VISITS THE VILLAGE

Mrs. Pamela Nail, Mrs. America 1987, not only spoke in a special service September 21 in Powell Chapel, India Nunnery Campus, but took time to sign autographs for children.



MAMA T'S GIVES 25% OF FOOD RECEIPTS TO THE VILLAGE ON GRAND OPENING DAY

Standing near the entrance of MAMA T'S, The Oxford Mall, Oxford, Mississippi is Rev. Karl K. McGraw, Director of Properties, The Baptist Children's Village with Mrs. Patricia Jackson, co-owner of MAMA T'S and MAMA T.

The family restaurant specializing in MEXICAN food gave \$550.00, 25% of their GRAND OPENING receipts to The Village.

This gift was motivated in part by MAMA T'S and her daughter's long time friendship with Mrs. Dizzy (Patricia Nash) Dean in whose memory DEANASH, our child care facility in Stone County is named.



HONORS

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Mrs. Lula Williamson
Alathea Sunday School,
Collins BC

Baptist

CHILDREN



1. What is largest state?
2. What is the smallest state?
3. Find two or more states that border each other.
4. Find the Mississippi River.
5. What state is bordered by four other states?
6. What state is split by the Mississippi River?
7. What are the two largest cities in the United States?
8. What state is farthest from the Atlantic Ocean?
9. What state is farthest from the Pacific Ocean?

Map quiz

Answers:

1. Texas
2. Rhode Island
3. Mississippi and Alabama;
4. Kansas and North Dakota;
5. Wyoming and Colorado.
6. Michigan
7. Michigan.
8. Florida and Texas
9. California

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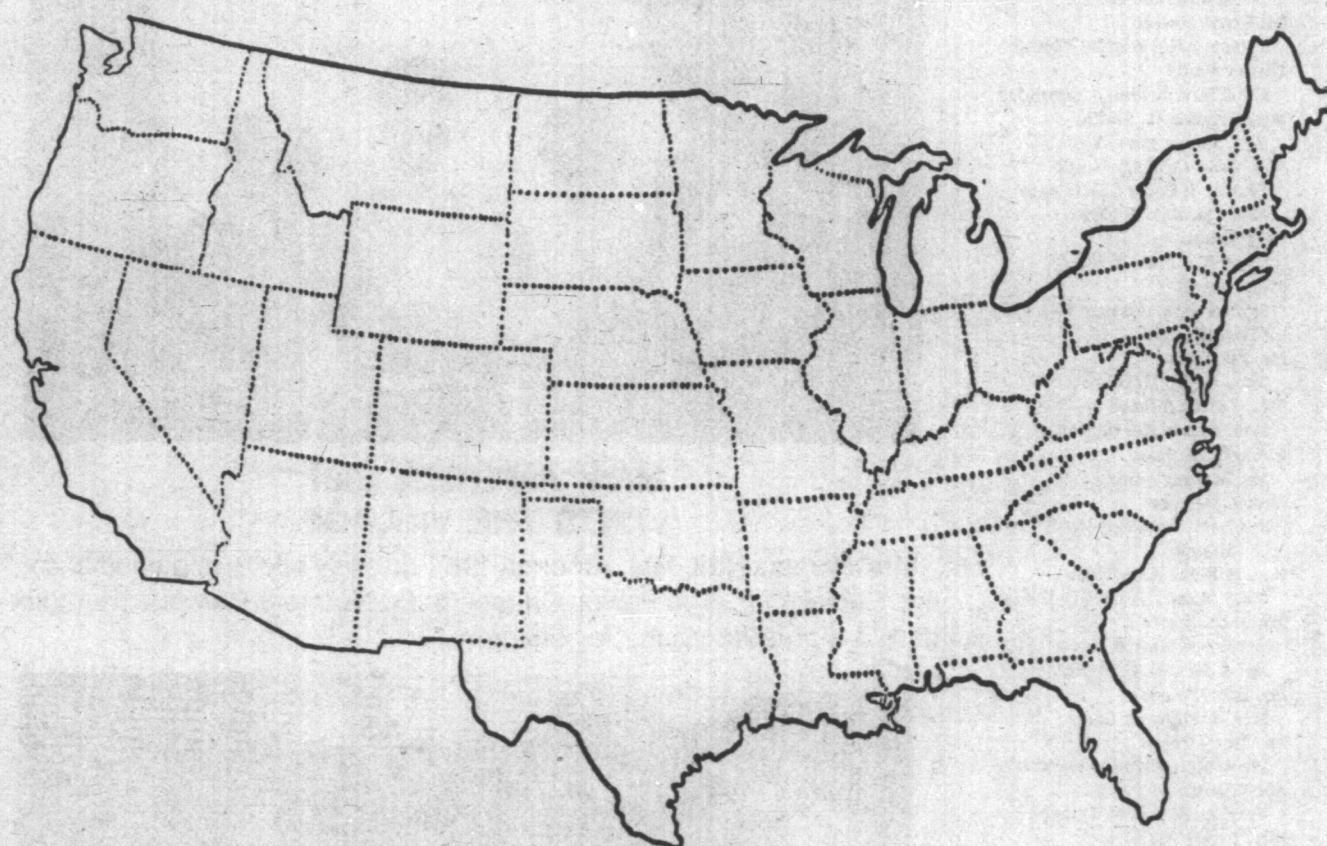
Kids reach out

NEW YORK, NY, (ABS) — The children of a Melrose, Mass., church scoured the neighborhood for soda cans as their special project this summer for the American Bible Society's program for Vacation Bible School, known as "Sow the Marvelous Seed." But the teachers never foresaw the

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Baptist Record

CHILDREN'S PAGE



Map Quiz

By Ralph C. Peterson

1. What is largest state in the lower 48? (Color it.)
2. What is the smallest state? (Color it.)
3. Find two or more states with similar shapes. (Color them.)
4. Find the Mississippi River. (Color it.)
5. What state is bordered by two of the Great Lakes? (Color it.)
6. What state is split by a body of water? (Color it.)
7. What are the two southernmost states? (Color them.)
8. What state is farthest east? (Color it.)
9. What state is farthest west? (Color it.)

Map quiz

Answers:

1. Texas
2. Rhode Island
3. Mississippi and Alabama
4. Kansas and North Dakota
5. Michigan
6. Michigan
7. Florida and Texas
8. Maine
9. California

Lincoln Road Church, Hattiesburg, had a putt-putt golf party for the children in the 1st through 6th grades on Friday, Sept. 4. Approximately 18 children attended.

Young Billy listened closely as his mother told him about the good times she had when she was a little girl on the farm — riding a pony, wading in a brook, sliding down a haystack. Finally, he gave a sigh and said, "Mother, I wish I'd met you sooner!"

Kids reach out to kids in other lands

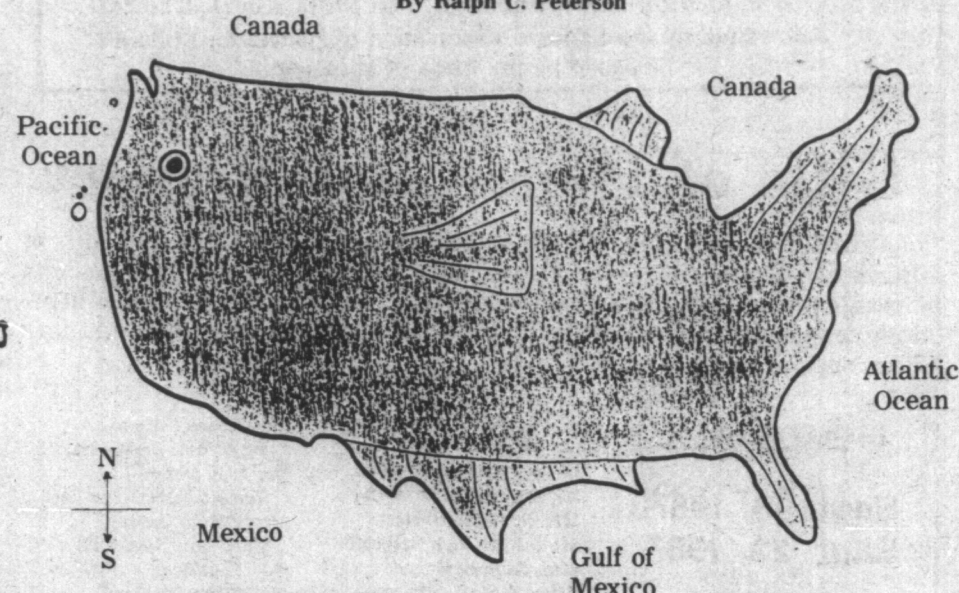
NEW YORK, NY, (ABS) — The children of a Melrose, Mass., church scoured the neighborhood for soda cans as their special project this summer for the American Bible Society's program for Vacation Bible School, known as "Sow the Marvelous Seed." But the teachers never foresaw the

small mountain of cans that would result, at least 3,000 of them. Proceeds from the sale of those cans will help bring new life for children in Honduras through the Scriptures which ABS has been asked to help provide. Meanwhile, VBS classes at churches in Mt. Prospect, Ill., and

Stockbridge, Ga., were also reaching out with love to others their own age in South America. The Illinois youngsters set up a large fishbowl so they could see their "seed gift" grow to over \$300. Those in Georgia doubled that amount, the boys slightly edging out the girls in giving.

GEOGRAFUN: (For Young Readers) Nations and Imaginations

By Ralph C. Peterson



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Can you imagine that the United States map looks like a whale swimming on its back?

Pen Pal Club

Anyone, ages 6 through 12, who wishes to meet a Pen Pal through the Baptist Record may do that by sending name, address, age, and name of church. Names will be listed monthly on the Children's Page.

Joy Morgan
Rt. 3, Box 68
Summit, MS 39666
Age 11
First, McComb

Rebecca Arthur
Rt. 7, Box 168-A
Columbia, MS 39429
Age: 12
Cedar Grove Church

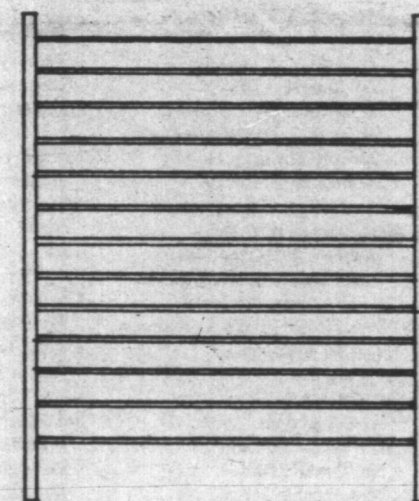
Climbing Jacob's Ladder

On the rungs of the ladder, write the names of Jacob's twelve sons and one daughter.

List the names by the ages of the children, from oldest to youngest. Begin at the bottom rung and go up.

To find the answers, read:

Genesis 29:31-35
Genesis 30:1-24
Genesis 35:16-18



Test your memory

Choose the right answer.

1. When Isaac was born, Abraham was
(a) 105 years old. (b) 100 years old.
(c) 175 years old. (Genesis 21:5)
2. On their way to the place of sacrifice, Issac said to his father, "Behold the fire and the wood: but where is the
(a) dove (b) incense (c) rope?
(d) lamb? (Genesis 22:7)
3. As Abraham was about to stab Isaac, he heard an angel call from heaven, and he saw
(a) the two servants. (b) the angel.
(c) a ram. (d) his wife, Sarah.
(Genesis 22:13)
4. When Abraham said to Isaac, "God will provide," he meant that God would provide
(a) food for them to eat.
(b) descendants in the future.
(c) a ram for the sacrifice.
(Genesis 22:8, 13)

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Baptist Record

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October 1, 1987